THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

SPRING / SUMMER 2011

HERITAGE

A newsletter for friends of The Catholic Cemeteries

As we partner in ministry to the bereaved

God's grace abounds

By Patty Stromen
Parish administrator, Church of the Ascension

EDITOR'S NOTE: Patty Stromen was guest speaker at The Catholic Cemeteries 2011 Mission Day, an annual opportunity for cemetery staff to reflect on their ministry to the bereaved. She is a member of The Catholic Cemeteries board of directors.

Patty Stromen, parish administrator at Church of the Ascension on the near north side of Minneapolis.

At Ascension, each day is a celebration of life in abundance. As our parish embraces people of different backgrounds, economic means and life situations, this core gospel message — that all may have life, and have it abundantly — surrounds and forms our ministry to parishioners and neighbors.

This teaching of Jesus is especially important in ministering to those experiencing grief and loss. The Catholic Cemeteries has been an invaluable partner in helping us to respond to the needs of parishioners with limited financial resources or whose cultural traditions differ from the majority culture. Several examples of this partnership come to mind.

An elderly parishioner volunteered for many years in our parish office. Her volunteering gradually became an opportunity for pastoral care as she reflected on her life during our regular office conversations. One day, she told me that she had one regret in her life. "When I was young, I had a baby delivered stillborn," she told me. "While I was still in the hospital, the baby was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery. My husband and I didn't have the resources to purchase a marker and we never visited the grave."

Go to page 3 to read about The Catholic Cemeteries' beautiful Children's Memorials, each created as a sacred place of healing and solace for families who have lost a child.

That was an era when people were reluctant to talk about the death of an infant and this parishioner had carried that grief in her for years. After she shared the story, I contacted John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries, to see what could be done. The Catholic Cemeteries offered a marker at a reduced price and we were able to assist to cover the balance of the costs.

After the marker was installed, we took a picnic lunch to the cemetery with our parishioner and several members of her family. It was a profound moment as we prayed together at the grave of this infant who had died more than 50 years earlier, giving our parishioner the opportunity to move forward in her grieving after being set aside for so long.

Sometimes grief strikes suddenly, too, as when a young Liberian mother died unexpectedly from a sudden illness. It was a terribly sad situation and very emotionally painful for many members of the Liberian community here in Minneapolis.

Challenged to help the family and community fulfill their unique cultural traditions around death and burial, we were very grateful for the respectful way the staff at Gethsemane Cemetery assisted, allowing the family the additional time and space they needed before burial. They completely honored the needs of this family.

I also remember a mother of Hispanic background whose son had died suddenly in his 20s. She had no place of burial and couldn't afford a grave. We contacted The Catholic Cemeteries and they offered to provide a space at St. Mary's.

What was so moving to me was how the grounds worker at St. Mary's interacted with this grieving mother. He took us around the cemetery, speaking to her in her native language and patiently showing her the various grave locations that were available. Eventually, she selected a site under a beautiful tree. This was several years ago, and I understand that the mother and worker still have the opportunity to chat during her frequent visits to her son's grave.

It is so important for our Church to recognize and respond to people whose life experiences may differ from our own, whether by financial reality or cultural background. God's grace abounds when we walk together and are present with people in their grief.

Going digital

Using new ways to spread the word

Open a Metro SuperSaver direct-mail advertising publication and you may find a large attractive full-color ad for The Catholic Cemeteries — one that invites you to connect digitally and receive offers via your smartphone.

It's all part of an effort to get the word out about the mission and range of services of The Catholic Cemeteries.

"With the growth of cremation and societal changes that affect people's decisions about burial, it's vital for us to inform people about the Church's rich burial traditions as well as the importance of making advance burial plans," said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

"While most of this work occurs at the parish level, direct-mail advertising is an effective way for us to deliver our message to the doors of Catholics in the Archdiocese and to establish an ongoing relationship with them via digital communications," he said.

Cherek credits Metro SuperSaver owner Ripperton "Rip" Riordan, an Archdiocesan deacon assigned to St. Ambrose Parish in Woodbury, with shaping several campaigns that convey faith values with sensitivity and dignity.

"Rip's dual experience in advertising and as a deacon and former Archdiocesan executive makes him uniquely qualified to help us broaden awareness of The Catholic Cemeteries," Cherek said.

Riordan was a broadcast executive when he moved to the Twin Cities in the early 1990s, and went on to become president of Clear Channel Television. About that time, a close priest friend who grew up with him encouraged him to consider a vocation in the Church.

ABOVE **A Metro SuperSaver ad for The Catholic Cemeteries.**

LEFT **John Cherek and Rip Riordan.**

Despite the demands of his career with a large corporation, he pursued the diaconate and was ordained in 1998. In 2000, then-Archbishop Flynn asked Riordan to leave his job and come work for the Archdiocese as director of the Center for Diaconate. Shortly thereafter, he was asked to assume the role of director of Clergy Services, which included all priest and deacon ministry assignments, continuing education and the Vocation Office.

"The ministry of a deacon is not about your needs or desires, but serving God's people where the Church needs you and giving your life in service to others," said Riordan. "I saw this as an opportunity to serve those who serve others."

In 2008, Riordan formed Ambassador Communications Corp., and purchased Metro SuperSaver Publications and Advertising. While most SuperSaver clients are local businesses, Riordan sees no contradiction with a church agency like The Catholic Cemeteries using the tools of modern advertising.

"Much of the ministry of a deacon is to evangelize and witness the Gospel outside of parish walls, so having The Catholic Cemeteries communicating in a general consumer publication is helping to share and deliver the message outside of normal Catholic advertising channels," Riordan said. "I believe what is important is delivering the message in ways that people want to receive it."

Ministry brings comfort to bereaved couple

On February 5, Liz and Raun Lauterbach joined with some 25 other families at the Resurrection Cemetery's Prayer Service of Burial and Committal for those who have experienced early pregnancy losses due to miscarriage or other reasons prior to birth.

Just a week earlier, the St. Paul couple had lost their baby pre-term. At HealthEast's Woodwinds Health Campus, they learned about The Catholic Cemeteries' ministry to grieving parents and the upcoming service and decided to attend with family and friends.

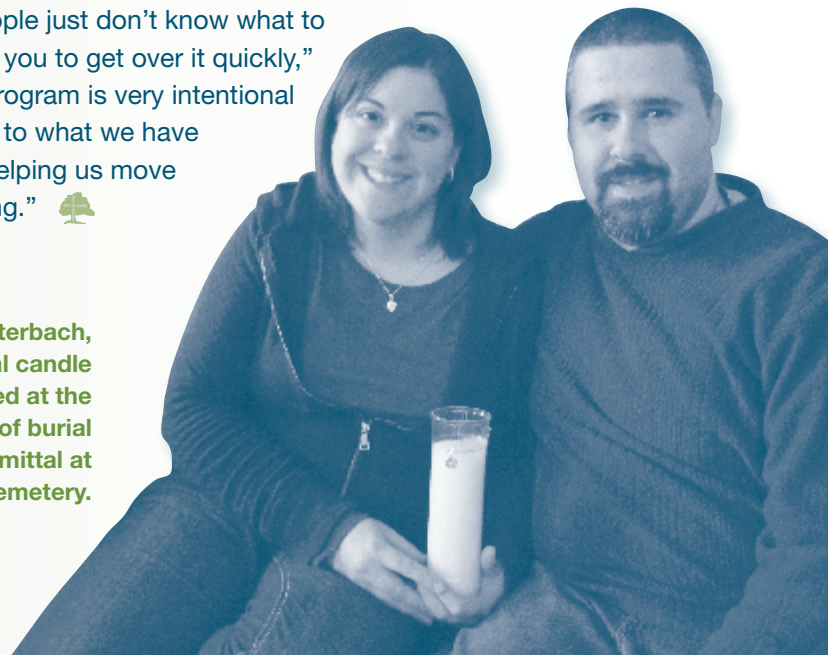
"The service was very healing for us, especially sharing it with other families who've gone through the same experience," said Liz.

The service, held four times a year, takes place in the Chapel Mausoleum at Resurrection and is followed by burial in a specially designated area of the cemetery. The ministry is supported by the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Compassionate Assistance Fund, which is dedicated to serving bereaved families.

"Too often, early pregnancy losses go unacknowledged and parents feel isolated in their grief. 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," said Sr. Fran Donnelly, director of Life Transition Ministries at The Catholic Cemeteries.

When the Lauterbachs learned about the Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden at Resurrection, they decided to have their baby's name engraved on the memorial wall because they want a place to come and remember their infant.

"Losing a baby pre-term is still kind of a taboo subject. People just don't know what to say or they expect you to get over it quickly," said Raun. "This program is very intentional in how it responds to what we have experienced. It's helping us move forward with healing."



Liz and Raun Lauterbach, with the memorial candle they received at the prayer service of burial and committal at Resurrection Cemetery.

One of three angels at the Gethsemane Chlidren's Memorial and Prayer Garden.

At Resurrection and Gethsemane cemeteries

Children's Memorials offer sacred places of remembrance

Since its dedication 10 years ago, the Children's Memorial and Healing Garden at Resurrection Cemetery has served as a unique place of ministry to those who have experienced the death of an infant or child.

Likewise, the Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden at Gethsemane Cemetery, dedicated in 2008, offers a reverent and sacred place of prayer and remembrance for bereaved families of all faiths.

The late Judge Donald Wozniak of St. Paul and his wife, Angela, initiated the creation of a memorial at Resurrection by providing a matching grant to The Catholic Cemeteries. "The Wozniaks were very interested in developing a special place for parents who had lost a child to grieve and heal," said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

On Memorial Day 2000, Archbishop Harry Flynn dedicated the memorial and garden, which is situated by the lake near the main cemetery entrance. A classical limestone temple at the top of a small hill marks the Memorial location. A walkway leads to the Memorial's focal point — a plaza featuring a bronze statue of the biblical Rachel, surrounded by the Wall of Remembrance on which the names of deceased children are engraved.

At Gethsemane, the Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden was designed and funded by Don and Linda Warner of Eden Prairie in memory of their daughter, Angela, who died of cystic fibrosis in 2003.

"We are so grateful to the Warners for honoring their daughter with this wonderful gift to all who visit Gethsemane," said Cherek. "It is a unique expression of their faith and love that offers comfort to all who mourn."

Dedicated in 2008 by Bishop Pates, the Memorial is nestled in a pine grove next to the Gethsemane Chapel Mausoleum. The memorial plaza features a pool and fountain with a bronze dolphin family emerging from the water. Granite benches surround the pool, and an image of Jesus and a child is etched on a granite wall, along with a poem written by the Warners in memory of their daughter, entitled "Lament for a Child." Three bronze angels offer points of reflection.

Both Memorials offer opportunities for memorializing a deceased child — at Resurrection, names can be inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance, and at Gethsemane, names can be inscribed on paving bricks on the walkway to the Memorial.

For more information on the Memorials and memorialization, go to www.catholic-cemeteries.org or call The Catholic Cemeteries at 651-228-9991.

Updates

Effort launched to restore historic gravestones

Fr. Kevin McDonough, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in St. Paul and friend of Calvary Cemetery, is leading a fund drive to replace the deteriorating gravestones marking the graves of 42 priests at Calvary Cemetery and 22 priests at St. Mary's Cemetery — men who served the Church during the early years of the Archdiocese dating back to the late 1800's and early 1900's. Joining Fr. McDonough in this fundraising effort is Phil Jungwirth, whose uncle, Archdiocesan priest Fr. Charles Jungwirth, died very young in the 1918 flu epidemic and is buried at Calvary Cemetery. On Memorial Day, a special collection will be taken at these cemeteries to launch the fundraising initiative. Over $20,000 is needed to complete the replacement project designed to honor the lives and contributions these priests made to the growing faith in our Archdiocese. To learn more, contact the Calvary Cemetery/St. Mary's Cemetery office at 651-488-8866 or go online at **www.catholic-cemeteries.org**.

Second columbarium planned at Gethsemane Cemetery

This summer, a second columbarium will be added to Gethsemane Cemetery's Cremation Garden. It will be located across from the first unit, which was set in place near the sidewalk entrance to the garden last year. Pre-planning discounts for the second columbarium are now available. For more information, contact Jules Bobst at 763-537-4184.

Update on Resurrection's Peaceable Kingdom Garden

The first phase of the *The Peaceable Kingdom Garden* at the south entrance to the Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum has been completed. Mr. Anthony Pilla provided initial funding for the garden in memory of his late wife, Bonnie.Thanks to fundraising efforts by Mr. Pilla, the second phase of construction is now underway. A rendering of the completed project is located inside the main entrance of the mausoleum. For more information or to make a donation, call The Catholic Cemeteries office at 651-228-9991.

End of Life Care conference explores spirituality needs

In April, The Catholic Cemeteries hosted the 18th annual End of Life Care conference at two sites — St. Richard's in Richfield and St. William's in Fridley. This year, a new DVD format of the conference allows for multiple uses and viewings. If you are interested in using this DVD in your parish or in receiving further information for upcoming programs, call The Catholic Cemeteries at 651-228-9991.

New Catholic Cemeteries web site offers many features

Launched in 2010, The Catholic Cemeteries' colorful new web site offers information on each of the five cemeteries and descriptions of burial options and memorialization opportunities. Visitors will also find information about a variety of topics, including Catholic cremation, what to do when a loved one dies, how to plan cemetery and funeral arrangements in advance, and special ways to remember a family member who has died. The genealogy section provides an online form for requesting burial information from cemetery records. Upcoming events and current sales promotions are also highlighted on the web site. In the future, users will be able to locate burial records on the site.
Go to **www.catholic-cemeteries.org** to check it out!

HERITAGE

is published by The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis,
2105 Lexington Ave. S.
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-228-9991
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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
PERMIT NO. 3844

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, 8 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

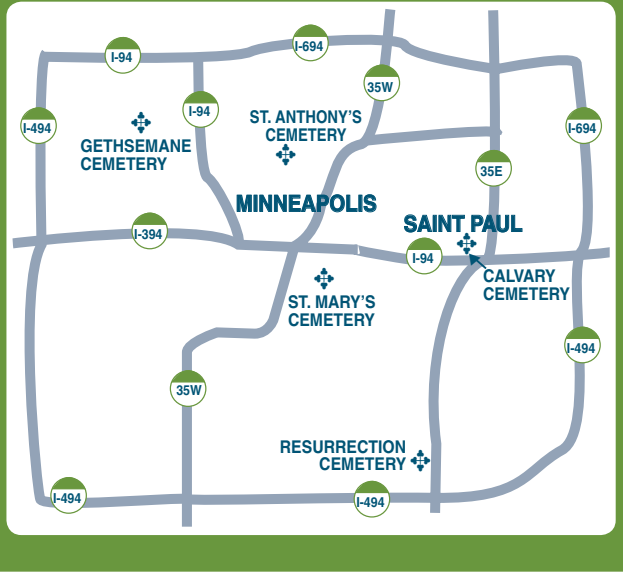
CALVARY CEMETERY
753 Front Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103
651-488-8866

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



Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at each cemetery at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 30. Please plan to stay for refreshments at the conclusion of Mass.

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

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
Church of the Holy Name
3637 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis

ST. ANTHONY'S CEMETERY
Church of St. Clement
911 24th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis

Mass will be held at 10 a.m. RAIN OR SHINE at **Gethsemane Cemetery**, **Resurrection Cemetry** 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 26, and remain there until Sunday, June 5. Decorations should be removed by this date; otherwise, the cemetery staff will begin pickup on Monday, June 6. 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.