

MY CEMETERY IS A CATHOLIC CEMETERY

We seek comfort and consolation when we visit a cemetery. The sacredness and religious character of the cemetery grounds is upheld with our actions, thoughts, and energy being spent contributing to the common goal – our Catholic identity in a well-kept and safe cemetery.

It is a core belief that Catholics should exercise the Corporal Work of Mercy known as the Burial of the Dead. Those who are buried, entombed, or inurned in our cemeteries are our primary concern.

The words and the images placed in a cemetery are ideally meant for all visitors to relate to and understand their meaning as it relates to their faith. These words and images and their meanings reinforce the common ground - our faith and its teachings and symbols that express Christian virtues that are readily apparent to all. We purposefully and intentionally distinguish ourselves from non-sectarian cemeteries in many ways. Our statuary, memorials, and chapels should always reflect this image. We must always side on the concern for the overall cemetery appearance and its reflection on our Catholic faith.

Catholic cemeteries must be viewed not just as memorials to the dead or monuments to times past. They do not honor the deceased merely for what they did on earth. Nor is respect and reverence emphasized solely because the body had been sanctified by the sacramental life. Catholic belief about death, as symbolized by the white vestments and the Paschal Candle used at the Funeral Mass, focuses on hope in the promise of the resurrection.



Not only does the soul live on but the total human person is destined for final glorification and transformation.

In the Creed, Catholics express as part of their faith “the communion of saints....the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.” These three doctrines are clearly demonstrated and symbolized in the Catholic Cemetery. The Catholic Cemetery is an expression of faith, an extension of the parish community, and a life affirming response to the universal mystery of death and resurrection.

Catholic cemeteries serve as an extension of the parish community. They give witness that the community of faith is unbroken by death. The principle remains that Catholic cemeteries are an integral part of the Church’s traditions and rites.

Catholic Cemeteries are monuments to eternity, a symbol of hope and belief in the resurrection. A Catholic cemetery is a place for prayer and a place of consolation to the bereaved – in general, Catholic Cemeteries are an inspiration and teaching to the living. My Cemetery therefore is a Catholic Cemetery!

PRAYER FOR VISITING THE CEMETERY

We come to this sacred place, the earthly home of our departed loved ones, where they rest in peaceful slumber, awaiting the day of resurrection.

We come to this sacred place to be close to God and remember the love He has for us.

We come to this sacred place to think of God and eternity, to pay a tribute of love and reverence to those we mourn, and to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.



We come to this sacred place in prayer, asking for the intercession of those who are before the throne of grace.

We come to this sacred place and are reminded that God is vividly present, for always and forever.

We come to this sacred place as so many have come before us and will continue after us, as a member of God's family.



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF LONG ISLAND

(516) 334-7990 | www.CCLongIsland.org

Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury

Queen of All Saints Cemetery, Central Islip

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Coram

Queen of Peace Cemetery, Old Westbury