

Funeral & Obituary



Planning Booklet

FROM THE PASTOR...

Cremation or Not

Disposition of the bodies of deceased Catholics by means of cremation is a fairly recent development. The 1917 Code of Canon Law forbade the practice, and this prohibition continued until 1963. While making allowance for cremation (as long as it was not chosen as a sign of denial of Christian teaching) the 1963 instruction *Piam et Constantem* issued by the Holy Office (now the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith) urged that “the practice of burying the bodies of the faithful is by all means to be kept.” This 1963 concession is provided for in the 1969 *Ordo Exsequiarum*, the Latin edition of the revised Catholic funeral ritual and was later incorporated into the 1983 Code of Canon Law in canon 1176: “The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed; it does not, however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching.”

The Order of Christian Funerals reflects a theology and a tradition in which burial of the body has been the principal manner of final disposition of the body. The long-standing practice of burying the body of the deceased in a grave or tomb as Jesus, continues to be encouraged as a sign of Christian faith. However, owing to contemporary cultural interaction, the practice of cremation has become part of Catholic practice in the United States and other parts of the western world.

Although cremation is now permitted it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. Catholic teaching continues to stress the preference for burial of the body of the deceased. Likewise, the Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for its funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in its rites.

This is the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the bread of life. This is the body whose hands clothed the poor and embraced the sorrowing. The human body is so inextricably associated with the human person that it is hard to think of a human person apart from his or her body. Thus, the Church’s reverence and care for the body grown out of a reverence and concern for the person whom the Church now commends to the care of God.

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, and the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. **The cremated remains should be buried in a grace or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. (no. 417)** (Taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website (www.usccb.org) and the Order of Christian Funerals [1985]).

To summarize-Cremation is permitted by the Catholic Church. However, it is clear that burial of the body is preferred by the Church. If Cremation is the preferred disposition the person can still have a Funeral Mass. If Cremation is to be used the Church prefers that the actual Cremation takes place after the Funeral Mass and that the body be present in the Church at the Mass. I cannot stress enough that the deceased is entitled to a full Funeral Mass whether cremated or not! If finances are a consideration please speak to the parish and funeral home.

Please remember me in your prayers.

Fr. Bob

Obituary Information Guideline

The following is a list of information that may be helpful in writing an obituary notice.

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Date of Marriage: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Children's Names (Spouse): _____

Grandchildren's Names(Spouse): _____

Great Grandchildren Names: _____

Siblings (Spouse) Name: _____

Predeceased By: _____

Special People/Pets to Mention: _____

Church Affiliation & Information: _____

Education Information: _____

Employment Information: _____

Military Service: _____

Hobbies: _____

Clubs, Societies, Volunteer Work: _____

Accomplishments & Honors: _____

Newspapers to Receive information: _____

Additional Information: _____

Funeral and Burial Plan

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Parish of Baptism: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Mother's Name (include Maiden): _____

Father's Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Date of Marriage: _____ Place of Marriage: _____

Children's Names: _____

Person Expected to Contact Funeral Home (Relationship): _____

Funeral Home: _____ Phone: _____

Wake Service: _____ Yes _____ No Open Casket: _____ Yes _____ No Length of Wake: _____

Military Honor Guard: _____ Yes _____ No

Final Disposition:

_____ Casket (only) _____ Casket followed by Cremation _____ Cremation (only)

Funeral Mass Parish: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Name of Cemetary: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Grave/Niche Location:

Deed Owner: _____

Section: _____ Block: _____ Lot: _____ Grave: _____

These are my wishes for my final disposition:

Signature _____ Date: _____

Funeral Mass

Readings:

First Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Second Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Music Selections: _____

Psalm: _____

Pallbearers: _____

Flowers: ____ Yes ____ No

If "No", donations "In Lieu of Flowers" should be made to:

Any Other Special Instructions:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

READINGS

1st Reading (Old Testament):

[2 Maccabees 12:43-46](#)

[Job 9:1, 23-27a](#)

[Wisdom 3:1-9](#)

[Wisdom 4:7-15](#)

[Wisdom 5:15-16](#)

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-11](#)

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-8](#)

[Sirach 2:1-11](#)

[Sirach 25:1, 3-11](#)

[Sirach 44:1a, 10b-15](#)

[Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9](#)

[Isaiah 41:9-10](#)

[Isaiah 60:19-20](#)

[Isaiah 65:17-19](#)

[Lamentations 3:17-26](#)

[Daniel 12:1-3](#)

2nd Reading (New Testament):

[Romans 5:5-11](#)

[Romans 5:17-21](#)

[Romans 6:3-9](#)

[Romans 8:14-23](#)

[Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39](#)

[Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:20-28](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:51-57](#)

[2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10](#)

[Philippians 3:20-21](#)

[Philippians 3:17-41](#)

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

[2 Timothy 2:8-13](#)

[2 Timothy 4:17-18](#)

[1 John 3:1-2](#)

[1 John 4:7-12](#)

PSALMS:

[Psalms 19: Your Words Are Spirit and Life](#)

[Psalms 23: Shepherd Me O God](#)

[Psalms 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd](#)

[Psalms 23: I Shall Live In The House Of The Lord](#)

[Psalms 25: To You O Lord I Lift Up My Soul](#)

[Psalms 34: The Cry of The Poor](#)

[Psalms 34: Taste and See](#)

[Psalms 103: The Lord Is Kind And Merciful](#)

[Psalms 116: Our Blessing Cup](#)

[Psalms 116: In The Presence of the Lord](#)

[Psalms 131: Like A Child Rests](#)

(Hymn) [All I Ask Of You](#)

MUSIC SELCTIONS*

[Amazing Grace](#)

[Ave Maria \(Bach/Gounod\)](#)

[Ave Maria \(Schubert\)](#)

[Battle Hymn Of The Republic](#)

[Be Not Afraid](#)

[Blest Are They](#)

[Bread of Angels\(Panis\)](#)

[Breathe](#)

[Come Follow Me](#)

[Come To Me and Drink](#)

[Come To The Water](#)

[Eat This Bread](#)

[Eye Has Not Seen](#)

[Fly Like a Bird](#)

[Gather Your People O Lord](#)

[Gift Of Finest Wheat](#)

[Hail Mary, Gentle Woman](#)

[Here I Am](#)

[Here I Am Lord](#)

[Holy God We Praise Thy Name](#)

[Hosea](#)

[How Great Thou Art](#)

[I Am The Bread Of Life](#)

[I Have Loved You](#)

[In Paradisum](#)

[Jesus Remember Me](#)

[Keep In Mind](#)

[Lead Me Lord](#)

[Lord You Have Come](#)

[O Lord I Am Not Worthy](#)

[On Eagle's Wings](#)

[On This Day O Beautiful Mother](#)

[One Bread One Body](#)

[One Love Released](#)

[Panis Angelicus \(Trad.\)](#)

[Panis Angelicus \(Franck\)](#)

[Prayer Of St. Francis](#)

[Precious Lord Take My Hand](#)

[Restless Is The Heart](#)

[Sacred Silence](#)

[Song Of Farewell](#)

[Song Of The Angels](#)

[Song Of The Body Of Christ](#)

[Soon and Very Soon](#)

[Spirit and Grace](#)

[Taste and See](#)

[The God of All Grace](#)

[The Strife is O'er](#)

[We Remember](#)

[We Will Rise Again](#)

[Wherever You Go](#)

[Where My Father Lives](#)

[You Are Mine](#)

[You Are Near](#)

*If there is a Song/Hymn you do not see on this list but you would like to be sung, please indicate it on your Planning Sheet. You should choose 4 songs /hymns plus 1 Psalm

