



DIOCESE OF LONDON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
1070 Waterloo Street
London, Ontario N6A 3Y2
Canada

Tel: (519) 433-0658
Fax: (519) 433-0011

May 4, 2011

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is an ancient tradition of the Catholic Church to reverence the bodies of our dead. This practice exists not only because the body has been a temple of the Holy Spirit, but also as a sign of our belief in the resurrection of Jesus and our hope of resurrection.

For these reasons, as your Bishop, I urge you to adhere to the long-standing practice of burying your dead in a Catholic Cemetery. In these days of increasing disrespect for the human body, and excessive commercialization of cemetery grounds, it is even more important now, than in the past, to bury your dead in a consecrated cemetery.

This teaching applies to cremation, which is an acceptable practice in the Catholic Church. When the body is cremated, all ashes are to be placed in a container or urn and are not to be divided. Ashes are not to be kept for personal use, such as placing some of the ashes in pieces of jewellery or kept at home in various places.

The Catholic Church directs that in keeping with a spirit of reverence, that the undivided cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or placed in a columbarium within a Catholic Cemetery. Through this permanent placement, the bereaved and the Church Community have a place to focus remembrance and prayer for the deceased.

In today's changing world with its uncertainty, the Catholic Cemeteries will welcome and serve you and your family whether you use a family owned, privately owned, or corporately owned funeral home. Remember to state your preference for a Catholic Cemetery when planning funeral services.

I wholeheartedly support and encourage you to consider seriously the purchase of your burial site in a Catholic Cemetery.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London

***When you search for me you will find me.
When you search wholeheartedly for me, I shall let you find me.
- Book of Jeremiah -***

*To whom it may concern, I _____ wish to celebrate
my birth into eternal life with all the benefits that the Roman Catholic Church offers to me.
I therefore request that this FAITH TESTAMENT be honoured in the following way:*

1. Public visitation and Prayer vigil to take place at _____ Funeral Home
2. Mass of Christian Burial and Final Commendation to be celebrated at _____ Parish Church
3. Following the Final commendation at the Church, my body/cremains will be taken to _____ Cemetery.
Burial or entombment will take place with prayers of committal.

(Optional)

***I wish the following hymns to be sung and scriptures
be proclaimed because they have spoken to my spirit over the years.***

- Opening Hymn _____
- First reading from the Old Testament _____
- Psalm Response _____
- Second reading from the New Testament _____
- Gospel Reading _____
- Offertory Hymn _____
- Communion Hymn _____
- Recessional Hymn _____

***“God has a purpose for each of us, a work for each one to do, a place for each one
to exert a likeness of His dear Son for each one to manifest, and then,
a place for each one to fill in His holy temple.” Arthur Hall***

*The celebrations described above are a Faith Testament for me,
in thanksgiving to God for the gift of my life and the promise of eternal life.*



HEAVENLY REST
FAMILY OF CATHOLIC
CEMETERIES