



DIOCESE OF LONDON

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March 1, 2006
Ash Wednesday

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 of the ashes are to be buried, and buried in the same place. Ashes are not to be kept for personal use, such as placing them in a piece of jewelry or keeping them on the mantle; nor are the ashes to be divided and buried in two different plots. In respect of the deceased and in recognition of the resurrection of the body, the ashes are to be buried in one plot.

In today's changing world with its uncertainty, 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,

+ *Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.*

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