

Burial in a Catholic Cemetery (Our Perspective)

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Most people don't welcome a discussion on death. In fact, most people avoid it as much as possible. You would think that in the church setting, people would be comfortable talking about their mortality.

At the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of San Jose, our staff feels fortunate because we have the privilege of helping people everyday who are dealing with death. That may sound a bit morbid... but, we talk about death everyday. We experience death everyday. Talking about death in the context of our faith gives us strength and hope.

We want to share with you why we believe it is important for you to use a Catholic cemetery for burial when the need arises for you and your family.

Burial in a Catholic cemetery provides tangible benefits that cannot be duplicated in a secular setting. Simply put, we provide Christian burial. This is a rite, R-I-T-E, of the church. By definition, Christian burial is the interment of a deceased person with ecclesiastical rites in consecrated ground. Our grounds are sacred.

Throughout church history, Christian burial has been an integral part of Catholic life. When someone dies, they begin a journey to eternal life. Their loved ones begin a journey of loss, which is carried out through the burial of the deceased. Our church's ancient rituals offer stability and focus at a time of great emotional distress. They help guide us with a response of faith, hope, and love.

Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of San Jose embrace our role in this journey and embody our Catholic tradition by expressing it through every act and interaction. In Catholic Cemeteries, you can trust that the depth of your Catholic faith will be honored and affirmed.

Our staff is committed to serving you with compassion, dignity, respect, and sensitivity to cultural diversity. We see our ministry as an opportunity to share in the Church's faith in the resurrection. Our ministry is an extension of the parish ministry to the sick and dying. Because we are carrying out a Corporal Work of Mercy, our staff is non-commissioned, which is unique in the funeral and death care industry. We also guarantee that our prices are the lowest in the area.

Many people think that the church still prohibits cremation. We want to assure you that the church accepts this as a valid form of disposition of your remains. However, the church also recognizes that the remains should not be divided or scattered. Even in cremation, the remains should be laid to rest in consecrated ground. The Catholic Cemeteries offer many options for this. We offer a variety of burial options for those who do not choose cremation as well.

We encourage you to seek guidance from the Catholic Cemeteries. We can help you to write down your burial wishes in advance. From our personal experiences with family and friends, and from the many people we have served, we know that making arrangements in advance lifts a burden from you and provides a special gift to your loved ones.

If you do not want to make arrangements in advance, at least visit us and educate yourself for when the need arises. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in San Jose and Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Cupertino are owned and operated by the diocese. Our cemeteries have been serving this community for over 125 years. We work on behalf of the Bishop with your pastor and parish staff to ensure that your faith is respected and your wishes are carried out even in death. After all, at times of crisis, why wouldn't you look to your faith for help?

Lori and Frances are the Outreach Team for the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of San Jose. They offer parish workshops on end-of-life topics and can also help arrange grief support sessions at your parish free of charge. They can be reached at 408-258-2940 or info@dosj.org