



# Catholic Journey

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark  
For our Catholic community, serving our Catholic families for over 160 years

Spring 2016

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## GOOD NEWS FROM A GRAVEYARD

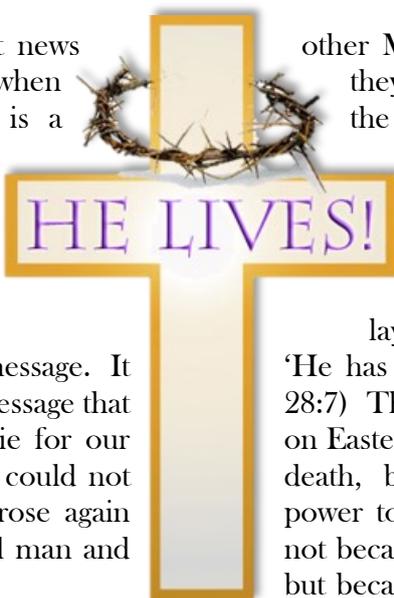


An extraordinary stained glass window portraying Christ's Baptism, Death, and Resurrection radiates behind the Chapel Altar at Maryrest Cemetery in Mahwah, NJ.

Some have said that history is just news from a graveyard. Perhaps so, but when you consider Easter, indeed, it is a perfect description. Easter is news from a graveyard. And what news it is! Easter is a triumphant proclamation of the greatest news - **"He is not here! He is risen!"** (Matthew 28:6)

Easter is a celebration with a powerful message. It is a message of hope and life. It is the message that God came down to earth as man to die for our sins. While he died a human death, it could not keep Him; and on the third day, He rose again establishing His divine authority over all man and earth.

On that first Easter, when Mary Magdalene and the



other Mary came to the empty tomb of Jesus, they were greeted by an angel who told them the good news from the graveyard: "He is not here, for He has been raised just as He said!" (Matthew 28:6)

But the good news continued... "Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead'." (Matthew 28:7) This is a message we need to hear not only on Easter, but every day. Because of Our Savior's death, burial and resurrection, we now have power to overcome death. Our salvation comes not because we have the ability to save ourselves, but because the Almighty came down to save us. (Continued on page 3)

# WHAT IS THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY?



Pope Francis declared that the Church will celebrate an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, from December 8, 2015, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, until November 20, 2016, the feast of Christ the King.

“I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy,” the pontiff said during a homily at the Vatican. “It is a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. For this reason, I have decided to call an extraordinary jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this year in the light of the Lord’s words: ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful’ (Lk 6:36).”

His Holiness is asking the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Pope Francis said, “I hope the Church will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God’s mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time.”

As with other jubilee years, the Holy Father has instructed that special plenary indulgences be available for the faithful through the duration of the year. These indulgences allow for the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin.

**For able-bodied Catholics:** Take a pilgrimage. Make a journey to your local Holy Door (a physical portal

## Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Clothe the Naked
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Bury the Dead

## Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the Sinner
- Instruct the Ignorant
- Counsel the Doubtful
- Comfort the Sorrowful
- Bear Wrongs Patiently
- Forgive Injuries
- Pray for the Living & Dead

in your local cathedral, shrine or other designated Church) or to one of the Holy Doors in the four papal basilicas in Rome. Crossing through a Holy Door is a spiritual journey that signals, as the Holy Father said, “the deep desire for true conversion.”

- Go to confession.
- Receive the Holy Eucharist “with a reflection of mercy.”
- Make a profession of faith.
- Pray for the pope and for his intentions.

**For the elderly, confined and the ill:** Pope Francis said they may obtain the indulgence by “living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial.”

**For the deceased:** Through the prayers of the faithful, indulgences may be obtained for the dead.

**For all Catholics:** Perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy, such as burying the deceased. Pope Francis said that an indulgence may be obtained when a member of the “faithful personally performs” one of these merciful acts.

More information on the Jubilee Year of Mercy is available at [www.rcan.org/yearofmercy](http://www.rcan.org/yearofmercy).

## BURY THE DEAD

In this Year of Mercy, we are called upon to participate in the Corporal Works of Mercy, one of which is to bury the dead. We invite those families who may be holding onto the cremated human remains of a loved one at home to entrust their

earthly remains to a final sacred resting place in a Catholic cemetery.

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark recognizes the deep religious significance and sanctity of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Order of Christian Funerals.

An integral aspect of the ministry of Catholic Cemeteries is to provide for the spiritual needs of its Catholic community and to pray for the dead by celebrating Mass on Memorial Day and throughout the year. The community is invited to celebrate Masses of Remembrance the first week of each month when we pray and remember the faithful departed. For Mass schedule, visit [www.rcancem.org](http://www.rcancem.org).



Stunning mosaic artwork depicting Joseph of Arimathea is on display at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Hanover, NJ

## Good News from a Graveyard (Continued from page 1)

This message of God's power and His resurrection is echoed in many bible verses:

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day."
- Romans 6:5 "For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection."
- John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

- 1 Corinthians 6:14 "God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power."
- Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

This good news from the graveyard is a directive for us all. "Come, see. Go, tell."

This Easter, let us be renewed and inspired to act. It is our duty to run with the good news and tell others: "He is risen and we are alive in Jesus Christ!"

*Easter Blessings to All!*



## NEW VIDEO ON MEANINGFUL CHURCH RITES AT TIME OF DEATH

The Archdiocese of Newark has introduced a short video highlighting the significance of the Church's funeral rituals to help Catholics during one of the most difficult and often confusing times in life – the death of a loved one.



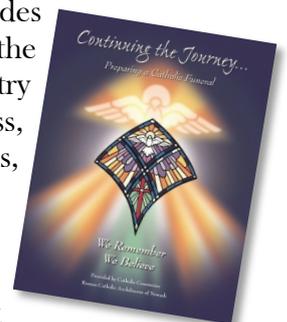
Prayers are offered during the Funeral Mass, as seen in the "Many Travelers, One Journey" video.

The six-minute video, *"Many Travelers, One Journey,"* weaves together the touching narrated stories of multiple individuals describing how family, friends and Church community come together to pray and comfort each other, celebrate the faith and life of their loved one, and share in the three principal parts of the Catholic funeral liturgy – the Vigil, Funeral Mass and Committal Service – known as the Order of Christian Funerals.

"In times of mourning, many of us can feel lost or confused," said Most Reverend John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark. "The prayers and ceremonies associated with the Wake, Funeral Mass and Committal are ways that the Church shows a connection with one of its members. In Baptism, we become part of the Church family. That relationship is not broken even by death. As such, we celebrate these funeral rituals out of reverence for the human body, for our relationship with the deceased, and for Jesus Christ, who conquered death," the Archbishop continued. "This video walks viewers gently through the beauty of these deeply meaningful Church rituals that guide and help console those in mourning."

Produced by Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, a ministry of the Archdiocese, and featuring actual Archdiocesan clergy and parishioners, *"Many Travelers, One Journey"* accompanies a comprehensive planning guide, *Continuing the Journey, Preparing a Catholic Funeral*, to assist Catholics during their time of loss or when pre-planning. It includes information on coping with the death of a loved one, ministry resources at a time of loss, Scripture Readings for Funerals, practical preparations, and more.

The video and booklet are available online at [www.rcan.org/ocf](http://www.rcan.org/ocf).



# "GREEN" CEMETERY OPERATIONS

## THE ECO-FRIENDLY CALL TO ACTION



In a world in which the hazards of pollution, overuse of natural resources, and landscape transformation are increasing, Pope Francis' new Encyclical on climate change makes clear that environmental problems are a growing global issue that requires attention by the human community at large.

"The Papal Encyclical is a significant step forward in shepherding the Catholic Church and its communities to take greater responsibility in the Earth's stewardship," said Andrew P. Schafer, Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries. "The Church is clear on the environmental trouble and its effects on humanity as a global issue and the urgency to act."

As the Church advocates for more research and education on climate change, Catholic Cemeteries is proud of its proactive efforts and environmentally-conscious operations at its cemetery properties in recent years.

"Since 2001, Catholic Cemeteries has been implementing significant eco-friendly initiatives in an intentional effort to preserve resources and reduce our footprint," said Schafer. "We are honored and proud to present our families and visitors with beautiful environments that not only provide a sacred space for their loved ones and evangelize our Catholic faith, but also wisely use our Earth's precious resources."

Efforts by Catholic Cemeteries to conserve energy and preserve natural resources include:

- Installing more than 1,000 solar panels on an acre of land at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East

Hanover, dubbed "God's Green Acre," to support half of its mausoleum's electrical usage

- Planting 10,000 young trees following new construction at Maryrest Cemetery in Mahwah to preserve the natural landscape and installing underground water drainage systems to preserve nearby marshland
- Developing a beautiful Green-Natural Burial section at Maryrest Cemetery with naturally-occurring flora and specially designed pathway visitation to keep plant and animal life thriving and undisturbed
- Using motion-detection lights, replacing and reducing by half the number of bulbs throughout Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington to minimize energy use and reduce heat

"Our conservation efforts will continue, especially in light of our Holy Father's recent appeal," added Schafer. "And we are grateful to His Holiness for amplifying this vital global discussion. More dialogue and greater action by world leaders on the environmental challenges facing future generations will be stimulated by His remarkable leadership."



Visit our YouTube channel to watch an ABC-TV news segment on our cemetery solar panels as explained by Joe Verzi, Assistant Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries. Or click here: <http://tinyurl.com/hb4a6wt>.



# GOING GLOBAL?

## FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR TRAVELING ABROAD

Whether you plan to visit the beaches of the Caribbean, the ruins of Rome, or the national parks of South Africa, nothing compares to the fun and education of international travel.

But planning for a global adventure involves some pre-planning! The following are suggestions to help make the most of your trip.

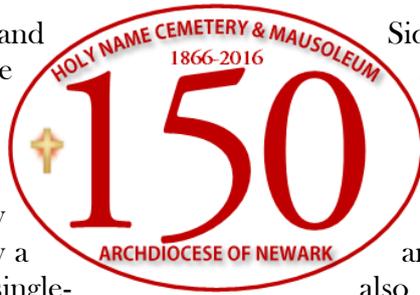


- ◆ **Travel warnings** - The [U.S. State Department](#) website posts travel cautions and alerts for countries with unstable governments, violence, political disturbances and/or health concerns. Check your desired destination before planning your trip.
- ◆ **Emergencies** - It's a good idea to write down contact information for the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate when abroad. This information is on the [U.S. Department of State](#) website. If your family needs to reach you in an emergency, they should call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services at 1-888-407-4747.
- ◆ **Photocopy travel documents** - Make two photocopies of all travel documents (itinerary, passport, tickets, etc.) in case of emergency. Leave one copy with someone at home and carry a copy with you.
- ◆ **Money** - When possible, use major credit cards instead of cash, and ensure your card will work in the visiting country. Most European banks now use the more secure chip-and-PIN technology, and fewer accept the magnetic strip cards. Also, when using cash, don't flash large amounts. Prepare several smaller stacks.
- ◆ **Vaccinations** - Some countries require proof of certain immunizations or medical tests. Check the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) website for vaccine recommendations and other health precautions.
- ◆ **Health Insurance** - Check with your health insurance carrier for international coverage. Some travel agents offer short-term health insurance plans that will cover you overseas.
- ◆ **Prescriptions** - If you take medications regularly, pack enough for the entire trip, including extra in case of travel delays. Carry medications in original labeled containers in your carry-on bag since checked bags can be misplaced. If possible, get a letter from your doctor in case you are questioned about your medication.
- ◆ **Suitable dress** - Be mindful of local customs, attitudes and religious beliefs when packing your clothes. Some foreigners may present anti-American attitudes, so leave your "I (heart) New York" t-shirt at home.
- ◆ **Backpacks** - Bring a small bag for everyday touring, since a backpack will mark you as a tourist.
- ◆ **Cameras** - Avoid hanging a camera around your neck -- it screams tourist and makes you a target to thieves. Carry cameras and electronics in a pocket or small bag.
- ◆ **Souvenirs** - Shopping bags are targets for thieves. Keep anything you buy in a tote bag.
- ◆ **Avoid hand gestures** - In some countries, a simple "thumbs up" is considered obscene. If you're unsure about certain gestures, simply avoid them.
- ◆ **Re-entry to the U.S.** - Check the [U.S. Customs and Border Patrol](#) website for information on what souvenirs you can and cannot bring back.
- ◆ **Food and Water** - In countries with poor sanitation, only drink boiled water, hot beverages (coffee or tea) made with boiled water, canned or bottled water, carbonated beverages, beer and wine. Avoid ice cubes, since they may come from unsafe water. If water sanitation is questionable, don't brush teeth with tap water. Also, be aware of certain uncooked foods such as vegetables and fruit, unpasteurized milk and milk products, raw meat, and shellfish. More information about food-and water-borne illnesses is available on the [CDC](#) website.

source: [www.AmFam.com](http://www.AmFam.com)

# THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HOLY NAME CEMETERY

Celebrating 150 years of Catholic faith and heritage since 1866, Holy Name Cemetery in Jersey City, was established to meet the needs of the community's Catholic families. The historic Hudson County cemetery occupies 63 acres and is surrounded by a combination of small businesses and single-family residences.



Holy Name Cemetery is the largest cemetery in Jersey City with approximately 264,000 burials. A section of the cemetery is dedicated to the burial of priests and nuns who served in the city's Roman Catholic parishes and parochial schools.

The cemetery's striking landscape is marked with many



elaborately-carved stone monuments. It is also the final sacred resting place to many notable Catholics. Among these are former Jersey City Mayor (1917-1947) Francis

“Frank” Hague, former state Senator Thomas Cowan, Justice Marie Garibaldi, who was the first woman appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court, Frank Sinatra’s grandparents’ mausoleum, Robert Hopkins, a crew member in charge of life boat #13 of the ill-fated Titanic, four other Titanic survivors with ties to Hudson County, and many Hudson County veterans from as far back as the Spanish American and Civil Wars.

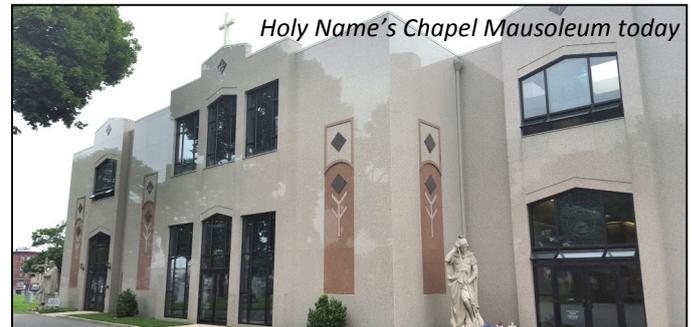
In 2005, the first community garden mausoleum with 1,300 crypts was added. Made of solid granite and nearly the length of a football field, the building’s beautiful architectural features include five gabled and gated alcoves with recessed panels topped with decorative granite motifs and walls in varying granite colors. The artistic garden mausoleum is a structure like no other in a congested urban area.

A magnificent two-story chapel mausoleum constructed in 2010 stands with a church-like presence on West

Side Avenue. The neoclassical granite structure is adorned with decorative carvings that are reminiscent of a beautiful and subtly colorful tapestry. Skylights allow for plentiful light which creates a comforting place for prayer and reflection. The chapel mausoleum

also features numerous original works of liturgical art including brilliant stained glass windows and an ornate, two-story mosaic highlighting the classic monogram for the Holy Name (IHS), the first three letters of the name of Jesus (IHSUS) in the Greek alphabet. Saints who have been promoters of devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus during the church’s history also are depicted.

The cornerstone of the mausoleum’s decorative theme is a suite of windows rescued from Saint Boniface Parish Church in Jersey City, a parish community established in the early 1860s to serve the large German population of lower Jersey City. The stained glass windows, completed in 1896, were designed by a glass studio in Austria. Each window was given to the parish



by either a family or organization of the Saint Boniface Parish community.

Holy Name Cemetery and Mausoleum is open daily from 9:00am to 4:30pm and is located at 823 West Side Avenue in Jersey City. For more information, visit the Holy Name Cemetery page on [www.rcancem.org](http://www.rcancem.org).

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**HOLY NAME CEMETERY**  
Saturday, April 30 & Sunday, May 1  
9:00am-4:30pm

Stop by, call or visit online during open house on  
Learn about the many options available.  
No appointment necessary.  
*Take advantage of open house savings before  
scheduled price increases on May 2*

## DELIVERING DONATIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES



Two Catholic charity programs that provide food and financial resources to the Newark area's poor, low income, and homeless recently received food and funds from Catholic Cemeteries, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark, which collected

donations during its food drive in recent months.

Approximately 120 bags (nearly 1,000 pounds) of non-perishable food items were presented to the Emergency Food Network of Catholic Charities in East Orange, New Jersey, along with a check for \$1,000. The Missionary Sisters of Charity in Newark, New Jersey, also received a \$1,000 check.

"The food drive is one way that we, as a Catholic family, can faithfully demonstrate the love of God to our brothers and sisters in need," said Andrew P. Schafer, Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark. "We all know how our challenging economic climate impacts ordinary families including many in our Archdiocese who are less fortunate. Catholic Cemeteries proudly helps local charitable organizations by providing food and funds generously donated by our staff and our communities."

The Emergency Food Network of Catholic Charities coordinates and supports local food drives from

churches, schools, and community groups, and provides assistance and food supplies to 50 emergency food pantries and 8 shelters for the homeless in the Archdiocese of Newark.

The Missionary Sisters of Charity, founded by Blessed Mother Teresa, provides food and shelter primarily for women in the Newark area. The Sisters help with daily meals, clothing, career and emotional counseling.



*Robert Mauriello (left), Director of Operations and Parish Cemetery Liaison at Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, proudly presented approximately 120 bags (nearly 1,000 pounds) of non-perishable food and a check for \$1,000 to Sharon Reilly-Tobin (right), Program Manager for the Emergency Food Network of Catholic Charities in East Orange.*

## ANNUAL BIRD HOUSE PROGRAM WINS AWARD



Catholic Cemeteries has won First Place in the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association's 2015 Keeping It Personal (KIP) Awards, recognizing the best in personalization in the cemetery, funeral service and cremation profession. The KIP program honors recipients in five categories. The Archdiocese of Newark was honored with first place in the *Event* category for its birdhouse building program.

Catholic Cemeteries created its birdhouse program several years ago to help educate students about cemeteries. Each summer, about 70 high school students spend a week during a summer work program with the Archdiocese of Newark's Catholic Youth Organization to build and install birdhouses while sharing meaningful stories about people close to them who have passed on. Students personalize their

birdhouse in memory of a loved one with a small memorialization plaque provided by Catholic Cemeteries. Later, students and their families return to see their birdhouses occupied by local wildlife and enjoy



*Students paint the bird houses they have built for Holy Cross Cemetery.*

the natural beauty of the cemetery. The media coverage on the annual event has brought new visitors to see the birdhouses, as well as people who are interested in sponsoring them.

ICCFA's 2015 KIP Awards contest attracted 32 entries from the United States and Canada. Professionals from outside the cemetery and funeral service profession performed the judging.

## GENEROUS ENDOWMENT GIFT SUPPORTS CEMETERY ARTWORK



Former U.S. congressman Frank J. Guarini, Jr. (center), pictured with his niece Carol Maurer (left) and sister Caroline "Marie" Mangin (right), recently made a generous gift to support the memorialization of Holy Cross Cemetery's monumental Pietà statue in North Arlington.

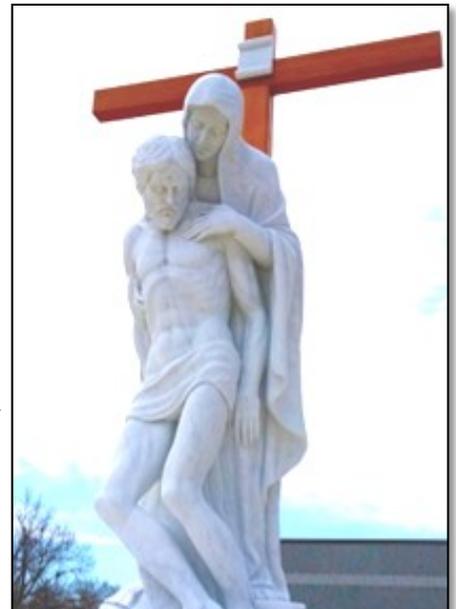
Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark is the recipient of a generous endowment from the honorable Frank J. Guarini, Jr., a former U.S. congressman and New Jersey state senator, to support the memorialization of the monumental Rondanini Pietà statue at Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum in North Arlington. The Jersey City native's contribution goes towards the preservation and upkeep of the extraordinary 10-foot Carrara marble statue with 13-foot cross imported from Italy and inspired by Michelangelo's final, incomplete masterpiece that depicts the tenderness of the Madonna and the passion of a dying Jesus.

Michelangelo began working on this last Pietà around 1550 and continued until six days before his death in 1564. The original statue is currently housed in the Castello Sforzesco Museum of Ancient Art in Milan, Italy, and is entirely incomplete; the forms barely emerging from the marble cut crudely from a white Carrara block; and two bodies indistinguishable from

each other with scaling and gouging marks of the sculptor's roughest tools clearly evident on all surfaces. The poignant artwork clearly represents the scene of Christ's removal from the cross. The gentle curve imparted to the Madonna's back inspires wonder as to whether she truly supports Christ or if he supports her, as they seem to reach for one another for strength.

This specially-commissioned Pietà was one of the final pieces of artwork placed at Holy Cross Cemetery, which features 90 other breathtaking master works of art on display in the mausoleum.

"Catholics have come to expect facilities where family and friends find comfort in symbols of faith surrounding their departed loved ones," says Andrew P. Schafer, Executive Director of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries. "Our cemeteries are a ministry of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark and provide a sacred place for powerful rites of passage as we commend those we love to God. We are honored and proud to present visitors with beautiful environments that evangelize our enduring Catholic faith, and a space in which they can remember, heal and appreciate the serenity of their surroundings. We are grateful to the Honorable Mr. Guarini for his gift and acknowledgement of this extraordinary monument and what it represents to our cemetery and community."



To learn more about the Pietà Rondanini "Complete" at Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum, visit [www.rcancem.org/pieta-rondanini](http://www.rcancem.org/pieta-rondanini)

### Artwork Preservation Sponsorship - Limited Edition Statue Gift

Please consider a sponsorship in support of the careful preservation and meticulous upkeep of the entire art collection at our mausoleums. All donations are welcome and help in the conservation of these beautiful and artistic liturgical works for your family and generations to come. Special recognition is available for Bronze, Silver or Gold level gifts. For a limited time, a contribution of \$1,000 or more to the new Artwork Preservation Program will be gratefully acknowledged with a 22-inch statue of the Pietà Rondanini "Complete." This composite-marble statue, hand-crafted and imported from Carrara, Italy, is enumerated and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. The limited-edition statue will be blessed and memorialized at a monthly Mass at one of our mausoleums, where it will be presented to the donor. To learn more, call 888-498-5209.



# CEMETERY SNAPSHOTS PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Last fall, Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark invited its Cemetery Staff to submit original photography taken in public areas of its cemetery locations to its inaugural *Cemetery Snapshots Photo Contest*. Dozens of impressive photo entries were received and reviewed by a panel of executive staff members. Winners were announced in December and received prizes for third, second and first places. Although the contest is open to Cemetery Staff only, the images are worthy of sharing with our community! Below are the winners and runners up.

## Cemetery Snapshots PHOTO Contest 2015



Photo Credit: DIMAS BOSQUES



Photo Credit: VERONICA ROCCISANO



Photo Credit: ADRIAN CAMPOS



Photo Credit: PASQUALINO GUERRIERO

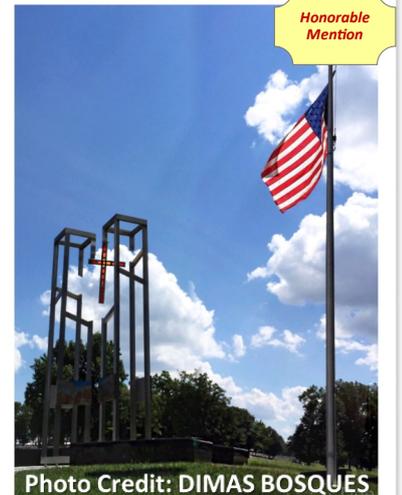


Photo Credit: DIMAS BOSQUES

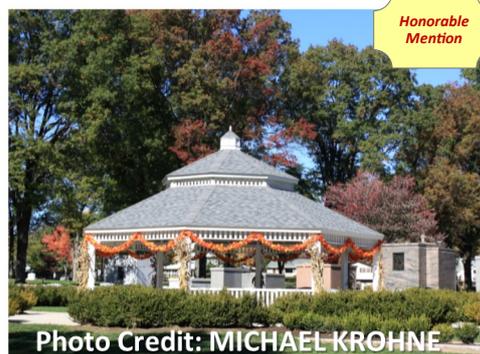


Photo Credit: MICHAEL KROHNE

**Congratulations**  
to all the finalists! We  
look forward to the  
2016 photos.



# MEMORIAL DAY MASS

*Serving God & Country:  
A Memorial Day Salute  
to Our Heroes*

**Join Us!**  
**May 30, 2016, 11:00 am**

## CELEBRATING MASS AT CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Holy Cross Cemetery, N. Arlington  
Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover  
St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia  
Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City  
Christ the King Cemetery, Franklin Lakes  
Maryrest Cemetery, Mahwah  
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange



*For a complete  
Memorial Day Mass schedule,  
including parish cemetery times,  
visit the Memorial Day Mass page at  
[www.rcancem.org](http://www.rcancem.org).*

## MONTHLY MASSES OF REMEMBRANCE

An integral aspect of the ministry of Catholic Cemeteries is to provide for the spiritual needs of our families. As part of the fulfillment of this commitment, Remembrance Masses are celebrated on Memorial Day and throughout the year, typically the first Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of each month at our cemeteries. For a complete schedule, please visit the Mass Schedule page on our website at [www.rcancem.org](http://www.rcancem.org).



## CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION SCHEDULE



In order to preserve the beauty of our cemeteries year-round, general clean-up days are scheduled quarterly to remove holiday ornaments and decorations from graves and mausoleums. Due to the volume of removed decorations, it is not possible to claim items after removal. Therefore, any items families wish to keep must be collected prior to scheduled clean up dates.

Notice of these clean up dates are posted on signage at Archdiocesan cemetery entrances, on the Rules & Regulations page of [www.rcancem.org](http://www.rcancem.org), and in various cemeteries publications.

E-mail notification also is sent. To ensure your e-mail address is on file for future notices, please contact the [Catholic Cemeteries](http://www.rcancem.org) office at 973-497-7988.

**Upcoming General Clean-Up Days**

**April 4      June 21      November 16**

## ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE



When a family suffers the loss of a loved one, about 50 difficult decisions must be made within hours, but cemetery pre-planning sets most details ahead of time and can ease much of a grieving family's anxiety and burden associated with the difficult planning process.

"The worries of last-minute burial planning should not become part of a family's grieving process, especially when experiencing a great deal of emotional pain and suffering from loss," says Andrew P. Schafer, Executive Director of the Catholic Cemeteries. That is why Catholic Cemeteries regularly reaches out to families to inform them about the benefits of pre-planning, he explains. "Time and again, grieving families attest to the appreciable difference of pre-set arrangements in easing their time of loss."

To assist families in learning about cemetery pre-planning and memorialization, Catholic Cemeteries is hosting open house events at multiple cemeteries throughout New Jersey. Memorial Planning Advisors will be available to answer questions and share information about services, the many burial options, and financial planning. No appointment is necessary and no obligation is expected. The events are open to the Catholic community.

### Upcoming Open House Events

- **Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum**, 340 Ridge Rd., North Arlington, April 2 & 3, 9:00am to 4:30pm
- **St. Gertrude Cemetery & Mausoleum**, 53 Inman Ave., Colonia, April 16 & 17, 9:00am to 4:30pm
- **Holy Name Cemetery & Mausoleum**, 823 West Side Ave., Jersey City, April 30 & May 1, 9:00am to 4:30pm

Request info on pre-planning at [www.rcancem.org/pre-planning](http://www.rcancem.org/pre-planning) or call 888-498-5209.

## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

The staff at Catholic Cemeteries minister to the needs of individuals and families before, at the time of, and after death. This includes caring assistance with cemetery planning before death; compassionate support at the time of death, facilitating a loved one's interment in a holy place; support throughout bereavement; and perpetual cemetery care thereafter.

We hope this newsletter offers helpful information that assists you in your Catholic journey and in planning for your future needs. As always, our Catholic Cemeteries staff are available to help you and to answer any questions. Contact us at 973-497-7988 or via e-mail at [cemetery@rcan.org](mailto:cemetery@rcan.org). Visit us online at [www.rcancem.org](http://www.rcancem.org) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube or Google+.



## *An Easter Blessing*

May the Resurrection of our Savior be a constant reminder of His love and promise of eternal life.

Wishing a Blessed Easter to all!



Stay up to date, follow us on social media.



Visit us online at [www.rcancem.org](http://www.rcancem.org)  
Sign up for our newsletter and email updates