



Fall 2015

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Catholic Journey

*A newsletter presented by Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark
For our Catholic community, serving our Catholic families for over 160 years*

Students Build Birdhouses & Bring Life to Holy Cross Cemetery

Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum in North Arlington is the resting place of 292,381 loved ones. It is a sacred place of prayer, remembrance and tranquility. Most recently, thanks to student volunteers, it became a sanctuary for feathered friends.

In July, approximately 125 student volunteers from Catholic high schools in the region created birdhouses in hopes of attracting more wildlife to the area and to add to the beauty of the property.

Twelve parishes within the Archdiocese of Newark participated in a summer work camp program. The students were placed in groups of 10 with two adult supervisors per group, and they spent one week traveling and performing services throughout the area.

According to Rich Donovan, the Archdiocese's Associate Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, the students usually look puzzled when they are told they will spend a day in a cemetery. But the trip to the cemetery serves an educational purpose. Students learn about its significance and are given a tour of the mausoleum. Following the tour, the teens conclude with a prayer at the 9/11 memorial in the cemetery.

During their visit at Holy Cross, the students built about 70 birdhouses. Thomas Melito, Construction Superintendent for Catholic Cemeteries, said the birdhouses welcome nature and encourage wildlife to enter the cemetery. As students spend time here, it helps them understand the ministry of cemeteries and the Corporal Works of Mercy. Melito, who enjoyed his third year working with students on this program, also emphasized the role of the cemetery as sacred ground and how the property will be a cemetery forever.

While working under a tent next to a pyramidal canopy under which Saint John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist at Giants Stadium in 1995, the students spent time constructing and painting their birdhouses. Several birdhouse styles were available from which to choose. The completed birdhouses dried overnight and then were decorated with a small placard in memory of their loved one. Upon completion, the teens mounted the birdhouses in the cemetery.

Student Antonio Danino enjoyed his first year in the program. A member of Saint Kateri Tekawitha Parish in Sparta, Danino learned about the camp from his sister, who previously attended the program. Her good experience encouraged Danino to join this year *(continued on page 2)*.



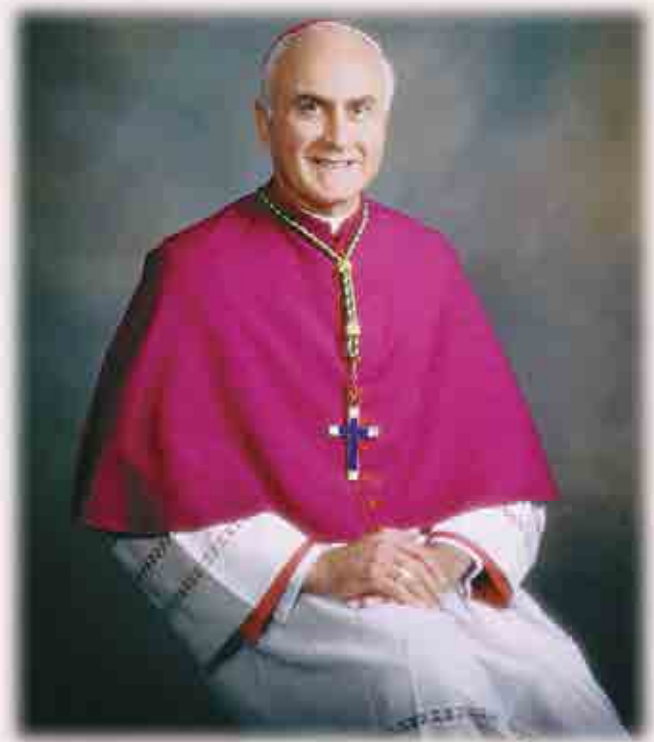
Thinking About Pre-Need Arrangements?

Take advantage of upcoming Open House Savings. See page 7.

Remembering

Bishop Donato

The Most Reverend Thomas A. Donato, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, passed away on August 25, 2015. He had served as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, Regional Bishop of Hudson County, and pastor of St. Henry Parish, Bayonne, from the time of his episcopal ordination in August 2004 until his passing. Prior to being named an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese, he had served in both parish ministry and as Spiritual Director of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange.



Gaetano Aldo "Thomas" Donato was born on October 1, 1940 in Jersey City, one of six children of the late Antonio and Rosa Arturi Donato. Baptized at Holy Rosary Parish, Jersey City, he attended Holy Rosary Elementary School and St. Michael High School in Jersey City. After graduating from the College Seminary at Seton Hall University in 1961, he entered Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, where he received a Master of Divinity degree and was ordained to the priesthood by The Most Reverend Thomas A. Boland, second Archbishop of Newark, on May 29, 1965.

Father Donato's parish assignments included St. John the Baptist, Hillsdale and St. Vincent dePaul, Bayonne. He served as pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption, Bayonne and St. Paul, Ramsey. Pope St. John Paul II named him a Prelate of Honor, with the title of Reverend Monsignor, in 1996.

After 35 years of Priestly ministry, Monsignor Donato took a six-month sabbatical to attend the Institute for the Continuing Education of Clergy at the Pontifical North American College, Rome. Upon his return, he was appointed pastor of St. Raphael Parish, Livingston, and shortly thereafter was appointed Spiritual Director of Immaculate Conception Seminary.

The Holy See announced the appointment of Monsignor Thomas A. Donato as Titular Bishop of Jamestown and Auxiliary Bishop of Newark on May 21, 2004. His episcopal ordination took place on August 4, 2004.

May Bishop Donato rest in peace. May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Birdhouses (continued from page 1)

Danino chose a lake house-style birdhouse and dedicated it to his Aunt Elizabeth. "The funny thing is, she was a bird person," he said. Danino inherited a parakeet and a macaw from his aunt after her death. He later added another parakeet.

Danino looks forward to returning to the work program next year. He admitted that he was surprised upon learning he would be working in a cemetery. But he was pleasantly surprised by the beautiful landscape and serenity of Holy Cross.

Tracey Ricciardi, an adult supervisor in the work program, said, "It's so peaceful here. The pride that they have for this place and the care that they put in – they really believe this is their ministry, not just their job." Ricciardi, a parishioner of St. Rose of Lima Church in Short Hills, oversaw the teens' activities during the program, including building the birdhouses at Holy Cross, and said she enjoyed the time. She praised Melito and the Archdiocese cemetery staff for their good work.

(Adapted from article published in *South Bergenite*, August 6, 2014.)



"What sets this activity apart... a realization from the students of the importance and care associated with a cemetery as a place to honor loved ones. The kids leave here really moved by the day."
-Tracey Ricciardi

Grave Concerns

Over NJ Ban of Headstone Sales

On July 21, 2015, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, two parishioners, and the Institute for Justice filed a lawsuit in federal court to challenge the constitutionality of a new law, which makes it illegal for the Archdiocese to sell headstones to its parishioners.

The law, passed by the majority of the New Jersey Legislature and signed by Governor Chris Christie in March, follows a prior lawsuit between the Archdiocese and the Monument Builders Association of New Jersey, the lobbying arm of the headstone-dealer industry.

“The new law blatantly violates the U.S. Constitution and places the interests of industry insiders over the freedom of parishioners and families and their freedom to choose a headstone provider,” said

Andrew P. Schafer, Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries. “The law protects only the interests of monument dealers and funeral directors who want to restrict headstone sales solely for their own personal economic gain.”

Since the earliest days of the Catholic Church, cemeteries and cemetery services have been central to our ministry. Generations of Catholic families have entrusted Catholic Cemeteries to help honor those who have died, provide a final resting place on sacred, protected ground in perpetuity, and support family and friends who pray for them. That’s our promise and our ministry.

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark made the decision several years ago to sell headstones based on increased requests from families for quality headstones and for help ensuring the headstones were secured and maintained. The Inscription Rights Program allowed the Archdiocese to provide a monument, inscribe it per the wishes of the parishioner, and retain its ownership in order to care for it in perpetuity. Families were grateful for the convenience during a difficult time and the assurance that their family’s memorial, a statement of faith for generations to come, would be well-kept forever. They also appreciated the opportunity to contribute financially to the long-term preservation of the cemeteries.

The Monument Builder’s Association of New Jersey disapproved of the Archdiocese selling headstones to its parishioners. The industry group argued it was “unfair” for a private religious cemetery to sell headstones because such cemeteries have a pre-existing relationship with parishioners. In other words, the monument builders argued that the Inscription Rights Program was “unfair” because it provided parishioners with more options, greater convenience and better service. As such, the headstone dealers sued the Archdiocese in 2013 to stop headstone sales. They claimed it was not legal. It was clear, however, that the lawsuit was simply about protecting industry revenues, not serving the public. A state court judge ruled in favor of the Archdiocese and agreed there was no basis for the monument builder’s argument. It was indeed legal for the Archdiocese to sell headstones to its faithful.

The right of the Archdiocese to engage in productive commerce was unacceptable to the Monument Builder’s Association. Subsequently, the group lobbied for and urged the New Jersey Legislature to pass a new law making it illegal for the Archdiocese to sell headstones. Despite a lack of evidence proving public health or safety risks resulting from the sale of headstones by the Archdiocese of Newark, the New Jersey legislature voted to prohibit the Archdiocese from selling the memorials. Governor Christie signed the new law on March 23, 2015.

(Continued on page 4)



One of the cemeteries owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark.

Headstone Ban (continued from page 3)

In nearly every U.S. state, anyone can buy a headstone or mausoleum from any individual, company, or cemetery. The law in New Jersey now bans all cemeteries in the state from selling headstones. This new law is a direct attack on the Archdiocese because it is the only religious institution selling headstones as a part of its cemetery operations.

Most importantly, this law negatively affects the faithful. Those who look to our Catholic cemeteries for care, support and services in their time of need have lost their freedom of choice to select us as a memorial provider. Their choice is purposely restricted to funeral directors and monument dealers.

"The New Jersey Legislature arbitrarily took away consumer choice for the sole purpose of protecting the bottom line of industry insiders," said Mr. Schafer. "Simply put, this new law protects only the interests of funeral directors and monument dealers. Ultimately, it harms the Church, parishioners, our mission, and our tradition."



One of the cemeteries owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark.


CONTINUING THE JOURNEY & KEEP REMEMBRANCE ALIVE

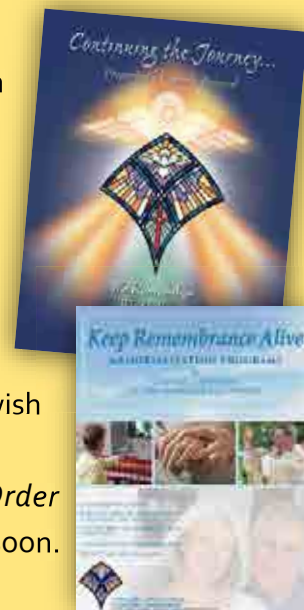
The Catholic Church provides beautiful rituals during life, at the time of death including the Vigil, Funeral Mass and Committal, and after loss including Masses of Remembrance.

Catholic Cemeteries offers families guidance on these rituals with information available in two free booklets:

Free Reference Guides

Continuing the Journey... Preparing a Catholic

***Funeral* booklet:** This free booklet offers information on bereavement and grieving, understanding a Catholic funeral, preparing Catholic cemetery arrangements, and more. It is a helpful guide when making the necessary, but difficult, decisions that the death or impending death of your loved one requires. It is designed to ease this time of loss and transition. It is also a good reference for those who wish to pre-plan their own arrangements in advance. This valuable resource is written in accordance with the *Order of Christian Funerals*.  Look for the video coming soon.



Keep Remembrance Alive: This free guide provides important information on bereavement support, special ways to remember your loved one, and information on our monthly Masses of remembrance.

These free guides can be ordered online at www.rcancem.org, via email at cemetery@rcan.org, or by calling 973-497-7988.

Did You Know...

- Within the first 24 hours of a death, a spouse and/or family members will have to make at least 50 difficult and emotional decisions under stressful circumstances.
- The spouse alone often must bear much of this heavy burden, since many of today's families are widely spread.
- On occasion, the spouse and/or family will second-guess hastily made decisions and will wonder "is that what Mom or Dad would have wanted?"
- You have an opportunity at the present time to ease an already-stressful situation for your family by pre-planning final arrangements. It is genuinely a loving gift for your family.



Speak with a Memorial Planning Advisor at Catholic Cemeteries or stop by an upcoming open house event to learn more about making cemetery arrangements in advance. Call 888-498-5209 or visit www.CemeteryMinistry.org

Avoid Fall FIRES



As summer turns to fall, it's a good time to remind ourselves of autumn fire safety tips. Some guidelines are the same regardless of the season. But there are many seasonal safety concerns, particularly when keeping our homes warm. Here are a few reminders:

Outside the Home

- Never park a car or truck over a pile of leaves. The heat from the vehicle's catalytic converter or exhaust system can ignite the leaves below.
- Never store flammable liquids such as unused fuel inside a home or attached garage. Escaping fuel vapors can cause an accidental fire. Drain excess gas from all equipment before winter storage.
- Trees or branches hanging over power lines should be trimmed. Contact your utility company. Also, prune trees and rake leaves and debris that can easily catch fire.
- Don't store cardboard, paper or other flammable materials in the backyard. They're easy fuel for fire.



In the Home

- The #1 cause of kitchen fires is unattended cooking. Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short time, **turn off the stove**.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or use extension cords in the place of additional outlets.
- Check electrical appliances for worn cords or plugs. Don't leave appliances plugged in if not in use.
- The leading cause of dryer fires is a lack of upkeep. Clean the lint filter before & after each use and check to ensure the exhaust vent is clear. Don't run the dryer when you're not home in case of a malfunction.

Heating Your Home

- Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they work, and replace batteries periodically. A good time to perform this important safety check is when Daylight Savings begins and ends.
- Fire extinguishers should be available and checked regularly to ensure they're working properly.
- If you have a gas heater, ensure there are working carbon monoxide detectors in your home.
- Keep flammable materials, including clothing, paint products, and cardboard, away from your furnace.
- Give space heaters space! Keep portable heaters at least three feet away from things that burn, including clothing, bedding, furniture or curtains. Turn heaters off before heading out or going to bed.

Candles

- Extinguish candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Candles should sit in sturdy, burn-resistant containers that won't tip over and can collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles near windows where curtains or blinds may close or blow over them.
- Don't use candles in areas where children or pets could knock them over.
- Be wary of novelty candles. Avoid candles with flammable paint, paper, dried flowers, or containers that may melt.

Be SaFe and enjoy a Happy autumn.

Adapted from www.oafc.on.ca/autumn-fire-safety

Commemorating Memorial Day at our Cemeteries



Holy Cross Cemetery



Maryrest Cemetery



St. Gertrude Cemetery



Gate of Heaven Cemetery



Holy Name Cemetery



Christ the King Cemetery

Remembering the Victims of 9-11



Holy Name Cemetery



Holy Cross Cemetery

OPEN HOUSE WEEKENDS

Plan Together Today



Take Advantage of Open House Savings
Limited Space ♦ Reserve Today



**SAT & SUN
OCT. 31 & NOV. 1**
**ST. GERTRUDE
Cemetery & Mausoleum**
53 Inman Ave.
Colonia, NJ



**SAT & SUN
NOV. 14 & 15**
**HOLY NAME
Cemetery & Mausoleum**
823 West Side Ave.
Jersey City, NJ



**SAT & SUN
NOV. 21 & 22**
**CHRIST THE KING
Cemetery**
980 Huron Rd.
Franklin Lakes, NJ

PLAN IN ADVANCE WITH CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

- Choose the options you want.
- Save with today's lower prices & payment plans.
- Make important decisions together.
- Feel secure knowing final arrangements are made ahead, easing your family's burden at a difficult time.

*Your Catholic cemetery memorialization is an affirmation of faith for generations to come.
Learn about the many options available.*

Speak with a Memorial Planning Advisor with no obligation.

Call 888-498-5209 or visit www.CemeteryMinistry.org



Dates to Remember

Cemetery Sunday

Sunday, November 1, 2015

Join us for a day of faith, prayer & remembrance by visiting one of our most sacred places, on November 1, *Cemetery Sunday*. Also, remember All Souls Day, on Monday, November 2. All are welcome!

3:20 PM Pre-Concert Lecture for the Bereaved, "I Know How You Feel: Fact or Fiction?" Presented by Janet McCormack, Office of Family Life, in the Cathedral Lady Chapel.

4:00 PM Cathedral Concert Series at the Cathedral

Basilica of the Sacred Heart - Requiem by Maurice Duruflé with works by Dvořák, Ferris & Schubert; The Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra; John J. Miller, conductor.

A free-will offering will be received; no advance tickets necessary. Guests may enroll names of deceased loved ones into the Book of Remembrance. This concert is intended to be a source of comfort and hope for those mourning the loss of a loved one. The Church gathers not only to pray for the repose of their souls, but to console one another by strengthening our hope and faith in the resurrection. For more information visit www.CathedralBasilica.org or call 973-484-2400.



An American Moment on Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11, 12:00 PM (Noon)

Join us for a moment of silent prayer on Veterans Day to honor the service and sacrifice of our military. This event will be held at each Archdiocesan Cemetery on November 11 at 12:00 pm (Noon).



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 each month at our cemeteries. For a complete schedule, please visit www.rcancem.org/mass-schedule.





Preserving Exquisite Art & Symbols of Faith

Catholic Cemeteries, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark, is honored and proud to present 250 major liturgical works of fine art at its cemeteries and mausoleums.

Among the stunning artworks are specially-commissioned marble monuments, bronze sculptures, intricate floor-to-ceiling mosaics, century-old stained glass windows, wood-carved statues, priceless porcelain images, canvas paintings, and countless religious icons. These pieces are more than exquisite art. They are symbols of our enduring faith.

These beautiful and priceless works of art belong to our Catholic community and are on display for generations to come. But, to maintain their museum quality and to endure through time, they require tremendous dedication and resources. The new *Artwork Preservation Program* will provide the necessary resources to maintain them perpetually.

Memorialize a loved one through liturgical art that may have special significance in one of the following ways:

Artwork Benefactor: Become a benefactor for an individual work of art such as a statue or stained glass window recognizing a special saint, or a mosaic depicting a particular scene that is meaningful to you. Donation amounts vary from \$5,000-\$100,000. Additionally, gifts can be made in your name or in memory of a loved one.

Artwork Preservation Program Sponsor: You may wish to support 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 artistic works for your family and generations to come. Special recognition is available for Bronze, Silver or Gold level gifts.

To learn more about supporting exceptional artwork in remembrance of a loved one, visit a mausoleum office or call 888-498-5209.

Contributions are tax deductible.

Receive a Limited-Edition Gift *Imported from Italy*

The magnificent, limited-edition statue of the Pietà Rondanini "Complete" has just arrived from Italy. Supporters who make a contribution of \$1,000 or more to the new *Artwork Preservation Program* will be gratefully acknowledged with this 22-inch, composite-marble statue, which is hand-crafted in and imported from Carrara, Italy. Each statue 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.

Recognition for a Bronze (\$1,000+), Silver (\$2,500+), or Gold (\$5,000+) level gift, which is tax deductible, also will be acknowledged with an engraved placard on our *Artwork Preservation Program Sponsors* wall. The placard can be personalized in memory of a special loved one.

To learn more, call 888-498-5209.



Lisa Balestrieri with the limited-edition Rondanini Pietà "Complete" Statue.

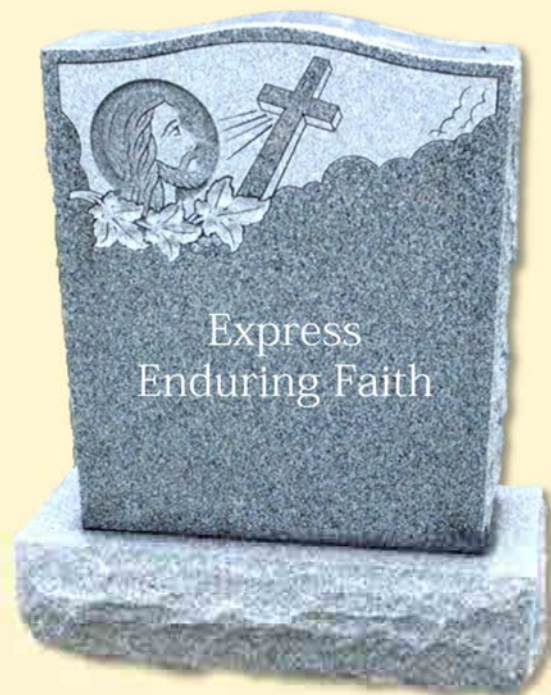
SACRED TRADITIONAL TRUSTED

RIGHT OF INSCRIPTION The Choice is Yours

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark embodies the belief of the Resurrection and the joyous promise of eternal life. Our Catholic Cemeteries are sacred ground, blessed as a final resting place for our Catholic community.

A Catholic burial serves as a memorable and lasting tribute to one's life for you and your family for generations to come. It's a loving and dignified observance of the passage of life, and a meaningful continuation of belief in the Resurrection.

Catholics can feel confident knowing that the holy place in which they'll rest at Catholic Cemeteries is safe and secure and will be taken care of forever. That's the promise of our faith and ministry.



*Catholic Cemeteries...
where your Catholic journey continues.*

Set aside a sacred space
for you or a loved one
888-498-5209
www.CemeteryMinistry.org



A MINISTRY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
For Our Catholic Community

*We recognize the deep religious significance of the
Corporal Work of Mercy involved in the burial of a loved
one and the sanctity of the Order of Christian Funerals.*