

CEMETERY GUIDLINES

INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Cemetery Association is ministerial in character. The church provides cemeteries to help people face the reality of death in the context of the Promise of Eternal Life. By encouraging prayer for the dead and frequent visitation by family and friends, we seek to foster an environment in which love is remembered, hope is rekindled, and faith is awakened or strengthened.

A number of guidelines have been adopted by The Catholic Cemetery Association to ensure that:

- the cemeteries and mausoleums are religious in character.
- the cemeteries are well maintained, healing and inviting to bereaved families and friends.
- the rights and privileges of all families are protected.
- the environment is safe and secure for all those who visit.

LANDSCAPE ISSUES

In order to maintain a uniform overall appearance of our grounds, all lawn care and development shall be the sole responsibility of the cemetery staff. A healthy lawn requires sufficient water and sunshine, therefore, all gravesite decorations, including all holiday decorations, should be contained within the dimensions of the headstone or floral vase. The following items are not allowed and will be removed:

- A. Fencing, hedges, trenches, borders, or enclosures of any kind
- B. Unapproved memorials, vases, benches, statuary or memorial covers
- C. Tape, adhesives, lipstick, decals or items adhered to niche and crypt front
- D. Trees, shrubs, bushes or other plants
- E. Candles, tinsel or confetti sprinkled on the gravesite or on nearby trees or shrubs
- F. Decorations on cemetery trees, bushes or shrubs

HAZARDOUS ITEMS

To ensure the safety of the cemetery staff and all visitors to the cemetery the following items are ***never*** allowed and will be removed immediately:

- A. Wire, rocks, bricks or glass
- B. Items staked into the ground such as upright crosses, pinwheels, landscape lighting, flags/banners with wooden dowels or other upright objects
- C. Any item which may cause harm to people or equipment.

HIGH WINDS

- A. Items not placed securely in vases may be blown away by high winds.
- B. Any items found blown about the cemetery will be disposed of.
- C. The cemeteries cannot assume responsibility for damaged items.

THEFT

The cemeteries cannot assume responsibility for missing or stolen items. The cemetery grounds are open to the public and unfortunately run the risk of theft by dishonest individuals. Immediate action will be taken if cemetery personnel witness such conduct by these individuals.

ITEMS PURCHASED ELSEWHERE

Products purchased from outside sources must meet cemetery guidelines. Fees may apply. Please check with individual cemetery for guidelines and fees.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Because the cemetery is open to the public and also subject to weather conditions, the Catholic Cemetery Association cannot take responsibility for any damage that may occur to memorials, benches, pictures, vases, etc.

FLORAL POLICY

Cemetery clean up days are posted at the entrance of the cemetery on a weekly basis. Due to the volume of decorations being removed each week it is impossible to make provisions to pick up and save items for individual families. If a family wishes to retain certain items they should plan on picking them up prior to the scheduled weekly clean up.

GROUND SPACES, CRYPTS AND NICHES

1. The cemetery will provide a weekly cleanup schedule at the beginning of each calendar year. Every attempt will be made to adhere to the schedule however, funeral services and weather conditions may force the cemetery staff to make adjustments.
2. The schedule is available in the cemetery office or in the notification boxes throughout the cemetery grounds.
3. All ground burial sites are cleaned completely on a weekly basis to include fresh or artificial flowers and all decorations.
4. Complete clean up on indoor and outdoor crypts and niches will take place once a month. Unsightly and hazardous items will be removed weekly.
5. Families may pick up a colored flag at the cemetery office which can be placed on the gravesite of your loved one to indicate a birthday or anniversary. This flag will alert the grounds staff to confirm the date against the headstone. Flowers and decorations will remain in place until the next scheduled clean up.