



DIOCESE OF GARY

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Bishop of Gary

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to speak to you about the importance of our Catholic cemeteries. For 2,000 years, Catholic cemeteries have been the resting place for the saints and a sign of hope for all Christians around the world. In the early Church, the catacombs were not only burial grounds but also gathering places for the Christian community to pray and to celebrate their life in Christ. Even today the purpose of Catholic cemeteries remains the same: a worthy place of rest for our loved ones and a sign of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Since death is the culmination of our earthly pilgrimage and our passage to eternity, Catholic cemeteries provide a bridge for that journey.

Catholic cemeteries are set apart from other cemeteries for they are an extension of our parishes and our faith. Our dedicated staff minister to the deceased, the bereaved, the entire parish community, rich and poor alike. Catholic cemeteries provide an environment in which love is remembered, hope rekindled, and faith is awakened, renewed, and strengthened.

It is a joy for me to endorse our Catholic cemeteries, both diocesan and parish alike. In addition to living as Catholics and following the teachings and examples of Christ, we can also demonstrate the faith to future generations who will walk these sacred grounds. Thus, in life and in death we are the Lord's.

For generations, Catholic families have chosen Catholic cemeteries. Will your family continue this tradition? Throughout life, the Church is present by baptizing the young, celebrating growth and development, blessing marriage and praying during illness. The natural step after this would be the corporal work of mercy – burying the dead.

I invite you to think and pray about this important decision in your life and in the lives of your loved ones and to choose Catholic cemeteries as the fitting resting place for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Gary