

A detailed stone sculpture of an angel with large, feathered wings. The angel is shown in a contemplative pose, with its head resting on its crossed arms. It stands beside a classical column. The background is a soft-focus landscape of rolling green hills under a blue sky.

The Greatest Gift

PLANNING A PLACE FOR REMEMBRANCE



Margaret's Story

There is no way to be 'ready' for the moment when you lose someone you love. Jack and I were married for 46 years. We faced his illness, the hospital stays. We knew that the end was growing near, but I wasn't ready for that moment.

If dealing with the sudden silence were not enough, I had no idea how much work was involved in navigating the hours and days that followed Jack's last earthly breath.

I remember when my mother passed away, it wasn't this difficult. Dad made sure that everything was taken care of. While Jack and I knew we wouldn't live forever, thinking about funerals and memorials was something we wanted to avoid. But at the end, these decisions and choices cannot be avoided.

I wish Jack and I had done what my father did for my mother, my brothers and me.

While it wouldn't have made losing Jack any less painful, it would have made the hours and days after he died a bit easier.

The Greatest Gift

PLANNING A PLACE FOR REMEMBRANCE

Everyone's life on earth must end at some point. For people of faith, it is the beginning of a new life. But what happens in between? Death is indeed a mystery. And it is this uncertainty that contributes to our profound sense of loss when someone we love passes away. Yet our sorrow is often accompanied by peace, and even joy, as we experience the rites of funeral, interment and remembrance.

IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. *Why not plan for it?*

Like other important events in life, death is a significant occasion and deserves to be planned and saved for. A funeral is about caring reverently for the deceased, about celebrating a life well lived and—for Christians—a new life in the world to come. The Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society can help you prepare and pre-fund a comprehensive plan that covers all arrangements for a Catholic funeral, including church, funeral home and cemetery services. Our plans are flexible, portable and guaranteed. And you have the peace of mind of a non-profit organization founded on Catholic principles that is committed to preserving your liturgical rights and wishes.

A FINAL GIFT

A Catholic funeral, like a Catholic cemetery is for the living, not the dead. It affirms our faith in the Resurrection. It offers consolation, hope and remembrance among friends, family and community of believers. And it provides a profound witness of our Faith to the world. Whether it is for ourselves or someone we love, a Catholic funeral—Vigil, Mass and Committal—is ultimately an act of grace we are able to bestow on others.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CATHOLIC CEMETERIANS LIE IN THREE AREAS:

PRE-NEED — We encourage people to make their wishes known and provided for ahead of time

AT NEED — We serve families with comprehensive burial services when a loved one has died

POST NEED — We offer the means to remember friends and family through perpetual care





Catholic Cemeteries

A PLACE TO REMEMBER

A Catholic cemetery, like a Catholic church, is consecrated ground. It is here that the earthly community bid farewell to one of their departed. And here that marks the starting point of that soul's journey home.

But our cemeteries are truly for the living. They are places where people gather to honor the life and memory of a life well-lived.

The Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society is a private, not-for-profit organization helping Greater Cincinnati families plan their final arrangements and commit loved ones to the peace of our Lord since 1843.

CCCS operates four cemeteries totaling hundreds of acres of beautifully maintained natural settings and structures. Each cemetery offers complete in-ground burial, above-ground mausoleum, cremation and memorial products, services and facilities.





St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

PRICE HILL

Known as "Old St. Joseph's," St. Joseph Cemetery at West 8th Street and Seton Avenue in Price Hill was originally founded in 1843.

St. Mary Catholic Cemetery

ST. BERNARD

St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, centrally located on East Ross Avenue in St. Bernard, was established in 1873.

St. John Catholic Cemetery

ST. BERNARD

Historic St. John Catholic Cemetery on Vine Street in St. Bernard was established in 1849.

Baltimore Pike All-Faith Cemetery

COSTELLO AVENUE, WESTWOOD

The Baltimore Pike Cemetery sits on approximately 100 acres atop one of western Cincinnati's highest hills, offering a magnificent view of the Clifton area and beyond the valley into downtown Cincinnati.

Baltimore Pike Cemetery is also home to historic World War I and II memorials, recently restored and rededicated.





Your Decisions

YOUR CHOICE

This guide is designed help you understand the choices available for final disposition, so that you can make these decisions for yourself, and as a gift to your family.

The next several pages are devoted to cemetery choices.

- *Where do you wish to be buried or memorialized?*
- *Do you prefer traditional burial or cremation?*
- *Above ground interment, or in-ground burial?
What is involved? What is available?*
- *What sort of memorial or remembrance would you like?*

There are other choices to be made in pre-planning funeral arrangements. CCCS are authorized agents for The Catholic Funeral Plan, a program that coordinates cemetery choices with funeral home and church services so you can be sure all of your wishes are carried out and paid for when the time comes.

As you learn more about CCCS and desire to start planning for these decisions, we encourage you to use the back of this guide to record your wishes, choices, and other important family information. **It is all part of the Gift.**

Above Ground Memorials

ABOVE GROUND INTERMENT CHOICES

Above ground interment means the casket or cremation urn is placed in a crypt or columbarium niche within a mausoleum. The crypt or niche is then sealed and a memorial is added.

Mausoleum crypts are normally designed to hold one or two caskets. Double crypts can be lengthwise, side-by-side or above and below. Most mausoleums are built four, five and sometimes six crypts high. The price of the crypt will depend on its type and location.





Ground Burial

IN-GROUND BURIAL CHOICES

With four well-established cemeteries covering hundreds of parkland acres, Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society offers a variety of sites for in-ground interment. When purchasing property for a final resting place it makes sense to consider the number of graves to include, as well as the particular location and surroundings within the cemetery.

VETERAN SECTION

Each CCCS cemetery also has a burial section for veterans, where interment costs are reduced. A large common monument is dedicated to their service. Memorial Day and other commemoration events are typically held here.



Perpetual Care

GUARANTEED UPKEEP *through PERPETUAL CARE*

People often associate cemeteries with beautiful grounds and well-kept markers. But only Perpetual Care cemeteries are able to guarantee this upkeep for future generations.

The four cemeteries operated by Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society are Perpetual Care cemeteries. This means a portion of the income from the sale of each burial plot or crypt space is set aside in a trust to provide for the future expense of caring for the cemetery grounds and structures. It also means monuments, markers and memorials will be treated and cared for with respect, and that money will always be available to maintain proper records and employ courteous, professional staff to help people find the grave of a relative or friend.





Cremation Choices

CREMATION CHOICES

Attitudes toward burial customs and religious observance have been changing in recent years. One result is that more people are choosing cremation over casketed interment. It is important for Catholics to understand that cremation, while not preferred, is permitted by the Church as long as the remains are properly interred in a Catholic cemetery.

Cremation urns are most often placed within niches in a structure known as a columbarium. Columbaria can be free-standing outdoor walls or located inside mausoleums. Cremation urns may also accompany casketed remains in crypts or be buried in-ground in urn vaults designed for that purpose.

Urn spaces are readily available in most areas of the cemetery, including special locations such as memorial gardens or Veterans section.



Reverence & Dignity

CREMATION AND CHURCH TEACHING

The Catholic Church maintains its preference for “the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead” intact. However, the ban against cremation was officially lifted in 1983. Since then, cremation has been permitted as long as the choice is not made for reasons that run contrary to Christian teaching.

What is abundantly clear is that our earthly remains—whether intact or cremated—are meant to be treated with reverence and dignity. The Church teaches that those departed are with us still, as members of the “Church Triumphant.” To honor their memory and commune with them in prayer, it is vital that cremated remains be accorded the same respect and “place” in the cemetery as that of traditional interment.

If you are a Catholic considering cremation, either as a final wish for yourself or as part of the process of carrying out a loved one’s wishes, you are urged to discuss the matter with the officiating priest.

Ask your CCCS representative to see the complete statement on Catholic funerals and cremation. Or visit www.cccsohio.org and read more about Catholic funerals and cremation choices

ACCORDING TO THE ORDER
OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS:

“While cremation is now permitted, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in its rites.”





Burial Vaults

BURIAL VAULTS

Funeral caskets are generally chosen for their appearance and style. But upon interment, it is the burial vault that protects the casket from the weight of the earth and pressure from heavy cemetery equipment passing over the grave.

Basic Grave Liner

- Concrete box

Burial Vault

- Reinforced strength and protection

Premium Vault

- Reinforced strength and protection
- Stainless steel, copper or bronze linings
- Personalization features

Cremation vaults for in-ground urn burial are constructed in similar fashion for the same reasons, but on a much smaller scale. Cremation urn vaults also come in various materials, protective capacities and opportunities for personalization.

Memorialization



PERMANENT MEMORIALS

The memorial and inscription compose a permanent tribute, both to honor the one who has passed away and inform anyone who passes by. Selecting the perfect memorial takes thoughtfulness and care.

That means it is much easier to do ahead of time than during a time of grief, worry and pressure. In any case, the arrangements staff at CCCS are trained to help you select the memorial that best fits your desire and budget.

INSCRIPTIONS, CAMEOS

For families who elect above ground entombment, memorialization takes the form of crypt lettering and bronze cameos that hold a treasured photo.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

Not all resting places at CCCS cemeteries are final! Memorial benches with personalized inscriptions can be purchased in memory and in honor of a loved one. Memory benches make a wonderful ongoing tribute as well as a welcome spot for visitors to pause and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

MARKERS & MONUMENTS

CCCS offers a variety of monuments and amemorials for ground burial, including:

- Granite markers (upright or flush)
- Bronze markers
- Statuary art
- Private mausoleums





Memorialization

CREATING A PLACE TO REMEMBER

There is always more to a person's life than the memories he or she leaves behind. Today, remembrance can be enhanced in ways that add warmth and life to the stories of those who have gone before us.

At CCCS cemeteries there are more ways than ever to create special memorial, including these unique remembrance opportunities that take advantage of the latest environmental and virtual technologies.



Memory Medallion®

The Memory Medallion® uses personal technology to bring special stories to life. This stainless steel medallion attaches to the surface of memorial markers. Using a smartphone, visitors can scan the QR code etched on the medallion and link to a biography, images and video presentation you create!

The Memory Medallion is an excellent and discreet way to leave a special message for future generations, use old family pictures and video for a loving remembrance, or bring to life stories of ancestors, community heroes and notable figures from the past.



Light of Hope

It's a simple idea that resonates with families everywhere: offering the 'light of hope' to shine on your marker or monument through the night, every night year round. To this day, candles are used to accompany a vigil, and remain a sign of steadfast remembrance. Now this idea is translated through the Infinity Luminaire, discreetly situated solar powered lighting that casts the warm glow of remembrance on your memorial or that of a loved one.

A Light of Hope becomes part of your memorial and will be maintained with care and diligence by CCCS staff.





- *Assure their wishes are carried out*
- *Avoid uncertainty at the time of death*
- *Eliminate the emotional and financial burden on the family*

Catholic Funeral Plan

CINCINNATI CATHOLIC CEMETERY SOCIETY AND THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLAN

Whether burial or cremation, it is important for Catholics to be interred in a Catholic cemetery. But what about the funeral itself? The Catholic Funeral Plan through CCCS is a way to make sure that happens.

In partnership with the Catholic Family Security Agency, CCCS is able to offer the Catholic Funeral Plan that provides a safe, sensible and secure choice for planning funeral preferences in advance, and eliminates all of the problems and disadvantages of traditional Funeral Planning.

For example, all decisions are permanently recorded, but no contract is required. Funds are kept separate and there is flexibility to change funeral homes, location and arrangements nationwide. Any accumulated funds in excess of actual costs are paid to the estate. Plus, the plan may be made irrevocable to qualify for Medicaid.

For more information about the Catholic Funeral Plan, ask your CCCS representative or visit www.cccsohio.org to see the AARP comparison of CFP to typical pre-arrangement insurance.



Arboretum Fund

ARBORETUM FOUNDATION: *Beyond Perpetual Care*

Through the CCCS Arboretum Foundation, Cincinnatians and friends of the cemeteries are working together to ensure the beautification of all of the Society's cemetery grounds.

For over 150 years, the Cincinnati Catholic Cemetery Society has directed a portion of its income into a Perpetual Care endowment fund to finance the care and maintenance of graves and crypts at our four cemeteries. But, as more of the cemetery property is developed, the costs for landscaping and beautification projects multiply. The Arboretum Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving and expanding its cemeteries with trees, shrubs and flowering plants in a park setting. This foundation has received "seed money" from the Board of Directors, but tax-deductible contributions from the community make it possible for various arboretum projects to go forward.

To learn how you can contribute to the Arboretum Fund, contact a CCCS representative, or visit www.cccsohio.org.



A Place to Remember, for Generations

A PLACE TO REMEMBER, A PLACE TO RETURN

Today's CCCS Perpetual Care cemetery is much more than a place to say good bye. It is a place to return to... a place to visit, pray and simply experience serenity that is increasingly hard to come by.

In addition, there are unique remembrance opportunities that take advantage of the latest multi-media experiences.

Our communities history and our common faith comes alive at our cemeteries, and through modern genealogy services often gives us a better understanding of our family's place in the world.

Finally, it is a place where history, remembrance and honor combine in Catholic memorial traditions dating back nearly eight generations.



Worksheet

RECORD OF WISHES

The purpose of this booklet and your visit with a CCCS representative is to explain some of the basic decisions about burial and the choices available. Someone must make those decisions. *We hope it is you.*

With that in mind, we encourage you to note here any preferences you have and to keep this booklet in a safe place with any other pre-arrangement documents you may record in the future.

Name

Spouse / Next of Ken

Children

Grandchildren



Name:

Spouse/next of kin:

Will:

- Yes, name of executor _____
- No

Preferred cemetery:

- St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
- St. Mary Catholic Cemetery
- St. John Catholic Cemetery
- Baltimore Pike All-Faith Cemetery

Preference of resting place or interment:

- In ground burial
- Above ground interment
- Cremation

Type of memorial: Granite Memorial Bronze Memorial

Vault: Grave Liner Standard Burial Vault Premium Protective Vault

Veteran: Yes No

Number/type of lots:

Special memorial:

- Monument
- Marker with Cameo
- Memory Medallion®
- Light of Hope



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