

# Considering Cremation?

While most Catholics still prefer full-body burial, today some families and individuals may consider cremation as an alternative to traditional burial. Cremation is another way of preparing you or your loved one for remembrance and memorialization, which is an integral part of the grieving process. Like a traditional burial, choosing a permanent and dignified resting place for the human cremated remains of a departed loved one is equally important, especially for loved ones who will visit, pray, and remember.

## **Burial Guidelines from the Vatican**

New instruction from the Vatican restates the doctrinal and pastoral reasons for the Church's burial preference for the remains of the faithful. The Church continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased because this shows a greater esteem towards the departed.

Nevertheless, cremation is not prohibited unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian faith.

When cremation of the body has been chosen, the human cremated remains of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place (i.e., a Catholic cemetery). This helps to ensure that due respect is shown to the faithful departed and that they are included in the prayers and remembrance of their family and the Catholic community.

Human cremated remains of the faithful departed should not be scattered, or kept in one's home, nor should they be divided among family members.

## **Sacred, Safe, Eternal**

A memorial at Catholic Cemeteries provides families, friends and future generations a permanent place to remember and pay tribute to that special life. It also assures you and your family of the dignified and proper long-term care of loved ones in a safe, holy place. Additionally, detailed records offer family members assurance that future generations can identify and gain access to precious family relationships, histories, and your family tree.

## **Keeping An Urn at Home?**

If you are holding the human cremated remains of a loved one at home, whether they departed recently or many years ago, consider bringing them to a Catholic cemetery. The dignified and permanent interment of human cremated remains in a holy place properly recognizes the Order of Christian Funerals. Accommodations are available to place a loved one in a grave or niche or in an existing resting place.

Additionally, there are ways to honor at a Catholic cemetery those whose human cremated remains have been scattered or otherwise are unavailable and to ensure that they will be prayed for as we do for all the faithful departed. We will work with your family to make accommodations to place a plaque "In Memory Of" an individual to a niche, grave or existing headstone so your loved one will be prayed for and remembered.

## **Let Us Guide You**

The promise of Catholic Cemeteries is to provide a dignified, permanent and sacred resting place for the cremated remains of your loved one, whatever your needs. Speak with a trained Memorial Planning Advisor today. Stop by, call, or visit online.



[www.CemeteryMinistry.org](http://www.CemeteryMinistry.org)  
888-498-5209

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**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
For Our Catholic Community