



## **FACTS ABOUT CREMATION AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR YOU  
AND YOUR FAMILY

### HONORING THE TRADITIONS OF CATHOLIC FAMILIES

In May, 1963, the Vatican's Holy office lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics to choose cremation.

Since the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church has always set aside ground that is blessed and consecrated by God for the specific purpose of providing Christians with a dignified and holy resting place. The Diocese of Orange has provided us with four beautiful blessed and consecrated Catholic Cemeteries.

If you are considering cremation, it is important to know what is involved and what your choices are. You will then be able to make a meaningful decision that is right for you and your family.

All four of your Catholic Cemeteries offer the option of traditional ground burial or burial in pre-installed lawn crypts or placement in niche structures constructed for that purpose. Please contact one of our cemetery counselors for answers to your specific questions.



Your BELIEFS, Your WISHES, Your FAITH

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Sat. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closed Sundays and Holidays

Exception: Cathedral Memorial Gardens

M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Sat. & Sun. 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

#### **VISITATION HOURS**

8 am to 5 pm pst

8 am to 6 pm dst

#### **WHEN SHOULD CREMATION TAKE PLACE?**

The Church prefers that the body be present for the full funeral liturgy and the cremation to take place after the liturgy. However, if it is not possible for the body to be present at the Funeral Mass, cremated remains present is acceptable.

#### **WHAT FUNERAL RITES ARE CELEBRATED WITH CREMATION?**

All the usual rites which are celebrated with the body present may also be celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. The rituals that may be celebrated are: Prayers after death, gathering in the presence of the body, vigil for the deceased, Funeral Mass, Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass and Rite of Committal. During the liturgies, the cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect traditionally afforded the full body in a casket.

#### **IS IT NECESSARY TO EMBALM?**

When the vigil and funeral liturgy are to be scheduled prior to cremation, embalming of the body may be preferred, especially if there is to be an open casket. If all three liturgical rites are to follow soon after death, embalming is generally not necessary.

#### **IS IT NECESSARY TO PURCHASE A CASKET?**

No. The only thing required is a simple container in which the body can be transported and placed in the cremation chamber. If you choose to have the body present for Mass, with cremation to follow, an inexpensive casket or even a rental casket are options.

#### **MAY I SCATTER THE CREMATED REMAINS?**

No. The practice of scattering on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.

#### **MAY I BURY THE CREMATED REMAINS AT SEA?**

Yes. Burial at sea differs from scattering. An appropriate container, heavy enough to be sent to its final resting place, may be dropped into the sea.

#### **WHAT IS A FINAL RESTING PLACE?**

A final resting place for cremated remains is in a Catholic Cemetery or Mausoleum. Catholic Cemeteries provide cremation graves for the interment of cremated remains, or the urn can be buried in a family plot. The urn may also be placed in a Mausoleum niche space. Some niche spaces provide a shelf for the urn where it may be viewed through protective glass. Other niche spaces provide a shelf for the urn that is placed behind a memorial plaque.

## **WHAT ARE THE COSTS FOR CREMATION?**

If you are considering placing the cremated remains in a mausoleum, you will need to consider the cost of the urn, niche space, type of memorialization and entombment fee. If you are considering placing the cremated remains in the ground, your arrangements will include the cost of the urn, vault, interment space, type of memorialization and interment fee.

## **IS IT ADVISABLE TO ARRANGE FOR CREMATION IN ADVANCE OF NEED?**

Yes. The subject of cremation should be resolved among family members since that determination will have to be made at the time of death. The family should also consult with their priest and Catholic Cemeteries counselors to decide what is best.

## **IN-GROUND CREMATION BURIAL**

In-Ground Burial Consist of:

1. Interment Space
2. Urn
3. Vault
4. Memorialization
5. Interment

## **COLUMBARIUM/MAUSOLEUM NICHE INTERMENT**

Above ground interment in a clean, dry, vented building that provides above ground interment for cremated remains.

## **NICHE/CRYPT BURIAL CONSIST OF:**

1. Interment Space
2. Urn
3. Memorialization
4. Entombment

## **INTERMENT/ENTOMBMENT SPACE**

The grave or niche space.

## **URN**

An urn serves the same purpose after cremation as a casket does with a burial. An urn is a permanent container in which cremated remains are placed.

## **VAULT**

A concrete enclosure that serves as protective lining and provides safe, sure footing for your loved one in-ground burial.

## **MEMORIALIZATION**

An inscription on the niche front includes the name of the deceased and birth and death dates. Or a granite slab or bronze plate for in-ground burial.

## **INTERMENT/ENTOMBMENT**

Interment/Entombment fees include, administration, permanent record keeping and documentation, opening and closing of the niche, crypt or grave space, service set up, supplies and service.

Information Provided by Diocese of Orange, Office for Worship 2/2018

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(888) 543-5020 • [OCCEM.ORG](http://OCCEM.ORG)



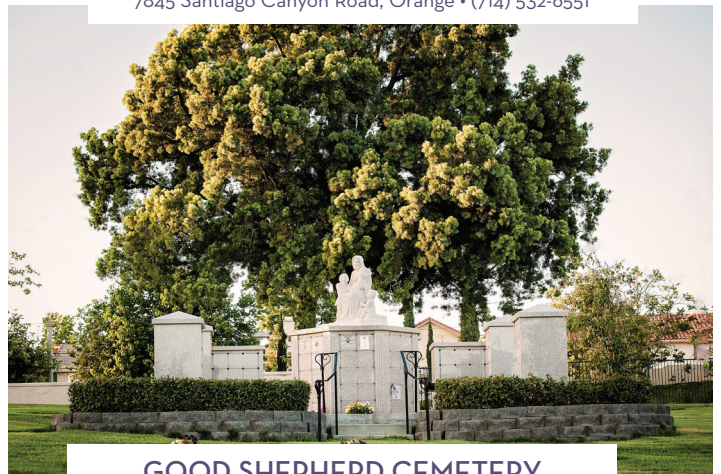
### **CATHEDRAL MEMORIAL GARDENS**

13280 Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove • (714) 282-3052



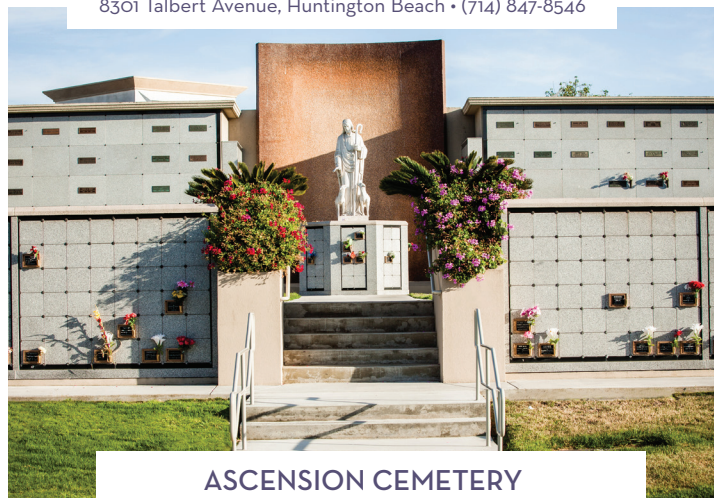
### **HOLY SEPULCHER CEMETERY**

7845 Santiago Canyon Road, Orange • (714) 532-6551



### **GOOD SHEPHERD CEMETERY**

8301 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach • (714) 847-8546



### **ASCENSION CEMETERY**

24754 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest • (949) 837-1331