Vol. 31 No. 1
Spring/Summer 2020

A Note from Our President & CEO

During these uncertain times, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island continues to be a place of **HOPE** for families. Our ability to continue to serve the Catholic faithful of Long Island with our **Corporal Work of Mercy** in providing timely burials of the faithful departed has remained critical, and we continue in this mode to the best of our abilities each day.

While some cemeteries limited hours, visitation hours at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island have remained unchanged throughout the pandemic. Despite daily challenges which seem to be on the increase, our staff continues to do an amazing job. Most have not taken a single workday off, as we all recognize the importance of the mission we perform for our Catholic community. We have been blessed with very conscientious and dedicated staff who remain focused on providing a level of comfort to families, all while taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of those who come into our cemeteries. I am extremely proud of the manner in which our staff has risen to the occasion.

Sadly, as everyone is no doubt aware, there has been a significant increase in the number of interments at our cemeteries over the past three months. As New York hit the apex of this pandemic, our cemeteries saw an increase of 2 to 3 times of our normal daily volume. While there had been some media coverage on a significant backlog of burials, I am proud to report that Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island did not need to defer any burials.

Looking ahead, we have a wide array of graves, niches and crypts available at our two beautiful cemeteries in Suffolk: **Queen of All Saints** in Central Islip and **Holy Sepulchre** in Coram. While we have an ample inventory of niches and crypts at **Holy Rood** in Westbury, burial spots are dwindling there, despite having added 800 burial spaces over the past year. Given this limited supply of burial spaces in Nassau County, we are now offering “at need” burials at our **Queen of Peace Cemetery** in Old Westbury, even while it is in the process of development, in order to ensure that Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island can continue to fulfill our mission.

During this time of limited opportunities for families to say goodbye and pray – with little or no periods for a wake, with no opportunity for funeral Masses – we at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island have continued to offer a critical opportunity where families can gain some closure, gain some hope. Whether that be by our field personnel, who take care of the burials/grounds, our Deacons, who provide committals of all who are interred with us, or our customer service and office staff, who work with families and the funeral directors, we take that responsibility very seriously, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving the Catholic faithful.

On April 24, 2020, **Bishop John O. Barres** visited each of our three cemeteries to offer our staff a blessing and thank them for their contributions during the pandemic.
As Long Island emerges from the impact of the coronavirus, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island has modified its practices. Below you will find information on our cemetery operations as of July 13th. This information will continue to change as we make modifications to comply with local and federal guidelines. Please continue to monitor our website www.CCLongIsland.org for the latest updates.

**Visitors**

Our visiting hours have remained unchanged throughout the crisis. For Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, Queen of All Saints Cemetery in Central Islip, and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram, our properties are open seven days a week from 8 am to 5 pm, with interior mausoleums closing at 4:30 pm.

Visitors are asked to continue to comply with existing “social distancing” guidelines, including maintaining at least 10 feet of distance from cemetery workers and always wearing a face covering when interfacing with cemetery workers.

**Offices**

For the continued safety of both visitors and our staff, cemetery offices remain closed to the general public at this time. Families wishing to meet with a Customer Sales & Service Representative must call for an appointment by contacting the respective cemetery office in advance, and the representative will meet the family member at a specific time and location within our properties. Again, the wearing of a face covering during such meetings remains a requirement at this time.

**Committals**

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island remains proud of the fact that we were able to address all families’ requests for committals on a timely basis, and with the participation of a deacon where practical. As of July 13th, committals continue to be performed outside (not inside chapels) and at graveside, with the number of attendees limited to 25 people. Attendees must wear face coverings and stay 10 feet away from all cemetery workers.

**Sales of Rights for Plots, Crypts & Niches**

During the height of the pandemic, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island understandably limited sales to those with “immediate need”. At this time, we have now resumed “pre-need” sales at our three active cemeteries (Holy Rood, Queen of All Saints, and Holy Sepulchre); this includes graves, crypts and niches at each.

In addition, we have limited graves at Queen of Peace Cemetery in Old Westbury offered only on an “at need” basis. Speak to the Customer Sales & Service personnel at Holy Rood for further information.

**Resumption of Key Ancillary Functions**

Certain non-critical functions which were suspended during the pandemic have now resumed. These functions include monument work, inscriptions, and placement of emblems and portraits. Please contact any of our locations for further details.

**Masses at Cemeteries**

It has been our practice to have monthly Masses celebrated across our sites. Due to limitations set forth by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Masses were suspended beginning in March. We will be resuming Masses in the near future, but are unsure as to ability for attendees. We will post updates on our website as plans become clearer.

**Family-arranged Inurnments**

Family-arranged inurnments were suspended at the beginning of the crisis as we dedicated our resources exclusively to working with funeral directors in addressing the massive increased needs of our collective services. We have now resumed working with families who wish to make arrangements for the final resting place of cremated remains. Please feel free to contact any of our offices for further information.

*Update on Cemetery Operations*

Our Customer Sales and Service Representatives are ready to assist you—with face coverings, of course! Featured left to right: Donna Knight, Barbara Meehan, Maureen Mauri, and Xiomara Felix at Holy Sepulchre.
Latest Updates on Queen of Peace

Development is in motion at Queen of Peace Cemetery in Old Westbury. Queen of Peace is located 2 miles north of Cemetery of the Holy Rood on Jericho Turnpike between Hitchcock Lane and Powells Lane.

While construction is still in its initial stages, a limited number of graves have been made available in Section 1 at Queen of Peace for immediate need burials only. Given the limited supply of burial spaces in Nassau County—a situation exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic—these new graves ensure that Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island can continue to fulfill our mission of serving the Catholic community in Nassau.

On Monday, May 4, 2020, Bishop John O. Barres consecrated this first burial section at Queen of Peace Cemetery. The Bishop’s blessing designated this particular portion of the property as "sacred ground" and appropriate for Catholic burials.

Current Availability

A selection of single grave and double grave plots are available for immediate need burials. Families interested in purchasing a plot at Queen of Peace should contact our Holy Rood office at (516) 334-7990 to set up an appointment with a Customer Sales and Service Representative. Please note that Queen of Peace will operate with restrictions on access and visitation while development continues on the property.

Pre-need sales will occur at a subsequent time. Click here to sign up to receive email updates on Queen of Peace, or visit www.CCLongIsland.org for the latest information.

A Future Look at Queen of Peace

During 2020 and 2021, there will be continued construction at Queen of Peace. Phase 1 of development, which will continue throughout calendar year 2021, will include the construction of our Chapel, Administration Building, Mausoleums, and our Maintenance Building. Below are pictures showing how Queen of Peace will look once Phase 1 of construction is complete.

Pictured above (left to right) are Father Eric Fasano, Father John McCartney, and Bishop John O. Barres during the consecration of Queen of Peace Cemetery.

The cemetery blessing was attended by Fred Carillo, Mayor of Old Westbury (center), along with several staff members of Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island.

Section 1 is located adjacent to the “oval” which will include our Chapel, Administration Building, and first phase of Mausoleums.
A Final Resting Place After Cremation

Are you considering cremation? Do you have the cremated remains of your loved one in your home? Consider a final resting place that reflects the Catholic beliefs and values from life's personal journey.

The Catholic Church teaches that deceased’s cremated remains are due the same respect as the body, including burial or entombment under the rights provided by the Order of Christian Funerals. Scattering or dividing cremated remains or keeping cremated remains at home are not reverent dispositions that the Church requires.

In addition to the Church’s teaching, there are many benefits to choosing a permanent burial site:

- Provides family and friends with a special place to visit and remember their loved one.
- Memorialization at the cemetery provides a permanent record of your loved one’s life.
- Cemeteries will always be there, open to visitations by all for generations to come.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island offers families a variety of burial options to best meet your family’s needs. **Cremation niches**, which can accommodate up to two urns, are available in indoor and garden settings, with marble, granite and glass front options to choose from. **Traditional gravesites** can accommodate both caskets and urns in the same plot, providing a good option when not all family members wish to be cremated. In addition, Holy Rood offers a **limited number of cremation graves** which can accommodate six urns; these graves allow for upright monuments with room for six inscriptions.

For more information, visit our website or contact our cemetery office to speak with a cemetery representative.

AMT Children of Hope Fundraiser

Founded by Tim Jaccard, the AMT Children of Hope Foundation focuses on the prevention of infanticide and enabling Safe Havens to give options to desperate birth parents. They also work tirelessly to educate and spread awareness about the options mothers have for their unwanted children.

When the unimaginable does happen and a child is abandoned, the foundation adopts, baptizes and provides a proper Catholic burial for the baby. The baby receives the funeral of a hero, with the police guard showing their respect in what is always a beautiful and touching service. These funerals take place at Cemetery of the Holy Rood in a special section called “The Island of Hope,” a place where people come to pay their respects and honor these children who came into the world with no one.

On February 9th, 2020, several staff members of Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island attended the annual fundraiser for AMT Children of Hope Foundation at Mulcahy’s in Wantagh. Run by a dedicated bunch of volunteers, the event featured a live band, dancing, and good food. Most importantly, funds were raised for this worthy cause through a silent auction, raffled gift bags, and a 50/50 raffle. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island was honored to participate in the event and is grateful to Tim Jaccard and the tireless work of his foundation.

For more information on the foundation, please click the following links:

- [AMT Children of Hope Website](#)
- [Catholic Faith Network Feature on Children of Hope](#)

*Tim Jaccard with Frank Pascarella, Assistant Superintendent at Holy Rood, at this year’s fundraiser*
MONUMENT CLEANING SERVICES

A clean monument enhances the natural qualities of the granite and adds to the overall beauty of a well-kept cemetery. Our staff is knowledgeable on the cleaning products necessary to remove different types of stains.

Pricing for this service is determined by monument size. Please note that monument cleaning services are only available during the months of May through October. To request cleaning service on your monument, please contact the cemetery office or complete the Maintenance Request Form on our website.

GRAVESITE BOUQUET HOLDERS

Aluminum bouquet holders are the perfect place for floral arrangements and are a lasting and beautiful memorial tribute. Available for use at most in-ground burial sites, these bouquet holders come in two parts: the holder and the insert. The holder can easily be inverted when not in use.

Bouquet holders are $65 and can be purchased through the cemetery office.

SHRUB AND BUSH MAINTENANCE

A well-maintained, balanced shrub or bush not only enhances the natural qualities of the plant, but also adds to the overall beauty of a family lot and compliments a family monument. With regular maintenance throughout the growing season, early detection of growth-related problems are possible. A treated bush can be saved when early detection occurs.

Pricing starts at $60 per shrub/bush trimmed or removed. To request service, please contact the cemetery office or complete the Maintenance Request Form on our website.

PORTraits

Your photograph or digital image can be turned into a protected memorial to capture the memory of your loved one for generations to come. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, in conjunction with our memorial suppliers, offers state-of-the-art image transfer technology and the maximum color retention of stainless steel to ensure beautiful, long lasting results. These portraits are covered by a generous, limited manufacturer warranty.

Portraits are priced at $405 and may be purchased for most crypts, niches, monuments, and flush markers. For more information on this program, please contact the cemetery office or email portraits@cclongisland.org.

CRYPT & NICHE FRONT MEMORIALIZATION

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island offers a wide range of bronze emblems that may be purchased for placement on a crypt or niche front. Available options include religious emblems, professional symbols, and scrolls. Click here to review the full catalog of available emblems.

When subscribing to the floral vase program, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island will supply and install an artificial floral arrangement in a vase for a crypt or niche front. New seasonal arrangements will be installed every 3 months for those subscribed to the program. Full details on the floral vase program can be found by clicking here.

CANDLE Memorials

Families may choose to purchase a candle memorial in one of our community mausoleums. Red candles may be purchased for 1 or 2 years, while white candle memorials last 2 years. For more information, please contact the cemetery office.
It is important to be mindful of our cemeteries’ rules and regulations for planting and decorations.

Below are links to a few important resources to help you determine what items are permitted at each gravesite and mausoleum location:

- **Planting & Decoration Guidelines - Reference Guide**
- **Cemetery Rules & Regulations - Overview**
- **Seasonal Planting & Decoration Schedule**

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island publishes a schedule each year to guide families on the placement of holiday decorations. Here is this year’s schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Place ON or AFTER this date</th>
<th>Take away BEFORE this date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>6/27/2020</td>
<td>7/13/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Hallows’ Eve (All Saints Day)</td>
<td>10/24/2020</td>
<td>11/9/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>11/17/2020</td>
<td>12/3/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advent-Christmas</td>
<td>11/27/2020</td>
<td>1/15/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note the following important reminders on decorations:

- No placed item, whether floral or otherwise, is considered permanent to the site. The cemetery makes every effort to enforce rules and regulations uniformly and with compassion.
- Because the cemetery is open to the public, with thousands of visitors each year, **the cemetery cannot guarantee plants and decorations from DAMAGE, THEFT, or DISAPPEARANCE.** The cemetery will not be responsible for plant or shrub damage caused by wildlife.
- The cemetery reserves the right to remove and dispose of any decoration/planting WITHOUT NOTICE OR COMPENSATION when deemed as unsightly, out of season, or otherwise not permitted in accordance with the cemetery’s rules and regulations.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island maintains irrigation systems for our burial lawn grounds at Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, and Queen of All Saints Cemetery. These systems ensure a healthy lawn throughout most seasons of the year.

Our irrigation systems utilize on-site wells that account for 99% of the water used. This promotes growth and beautiful lawns at our cemeteries, since no chlorine or chemicals are added to the well water. Backflow devices at each cemetery prevent fertilizer and chemicals from seeping into the main pipe and water supply. These devices undergo yearly tests by licensed inspectors.

Below are answers to some questions frequently asked by cemetery visitors, particularly during the summer months. It is important to note that irrigation is **not** part of Permanent Maintenance, but rather an added benefit at the discretion of management to enhance the appearance of our cemeteries.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Why are my plants dry in front of the monument?**
Sprinkler heads are designed to place the maximum water in the lawn areas of the cemetery. They are not intended to water the area in front of the family monument at the gravesite. Any planting done within the allowable space in front of the monument needs to be maintained (watered and cared for) by the family.

**Why is the grass brown in some areas?**
**Brown grass is not dead, merely dormant.** Excessive sun, shade, fertilization, heat, and rain all contribute to lawn appearance. Brown grass is often due to summer heat followed by periods of deficit natural rain fall. The sprinkler systems are designed to establish new grass growth and maintain lawn appearance during normal weather, not to replace nature’s watering.

**Why was the lawn sprinkler on during the day at my last gravesite visit?**
The lawn sprinklers are tested weekly during irrigation season. The staff isolates a particular zone or zones and tests system components. Frequent inspections are necessary for many reasons.
Effective January 1, 2020, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island announced two key promotions within our organization:

- **Deacon Al Pickford** was promoted to **Associate Director of Operations**
- **Ann Andersen** was promoted to **Associate Director of Administration and Customer Sales & Service**

Deacon Al has been with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island for over seven years and has been vital in overseeing cemetery operations. Meanwhile, Ann has been with us for almost four decades, focusing on overall administration and human resource coordination. Richard Bie, President and CEO of Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, stated in a press release: “Deacon Al Pickford and Ann Andersen have been outstanding contributors over the years, but never more so than what they have provided over the past year. Our activities at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is a ministry that our staff undertake daily. Deacon Al and Ann have been remarkable leaders in this regard.” Congratulations to you both on these well-deserved promotions!

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island has expanded our presence on social media! In addition to Facebook, you can now find us on Instagram (@cclongisland) and Twitter (@CathCemLI).

Be sure to follow us to stay connected and receive the latest news and updates, receive notifications on upcoming events, and view photos of our cemeteries. Click on the icons below to access our social media pages.