

September 16, 2020

Ground broken and blessed for cemetery in Old Westbury

Rockville Centre Bishop John O. Barres presided at a groundbreaking ceremony September 15 for construction at the new Queen of Peace Cemetery in Old Westbury.

“This is a milestone for Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island,” said Richard C. Bie, president and CEO of Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island. “We are fortunate to have Bishop Barres as a spiritual leader, who oversees the eighth largest diocese in the United States comprised of 1.5 million Catholics.”

Bishop Barres noted that September 14th was the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and September 15th the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.



“How appropriate that our dedication of Queen of Peace Cemetery occurs during these companion feasts?” he said. “This Catholic cemetery expresses our belief in the holy cross within our lives and our families' lives, especially at moments of death.”

Bishop Barres lead prayers and blessed the cemetery site with holy water. The ceremony concluded with a symbolic shoveling of dirt.

Currently, there are three Catholic cemeteries on Long Island - Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, Holy Sepulchre in Coram and Queen of All Saints in Central Islip. Bie explained that the vision of a fourth Catholic cemetery began back in 1993 under the leadership of Bishop John R. McGann, who purchased the property.

“We thank all those at the Diocese of Rockville Centre for their support and encouragement as we make this vision a reality,” Bie said.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island Board Chairman Richard Sullivan acknowledged the leadership of Bishop McGann, as well as Bishops James T. McHugh and William Murphy.

“Now, building on all that went before, we are finally here today at the beginning,” Sullivan said. “For the glory of God and the comfort of his people - let us build.”

Phase 1 of development, which will continue throughout calendar year 2021, will include the construction of a chapel, mausoleums and administration and maintenance buildings.