

# *Diocese of Camden*



## *Cemetery Guidelines*

# Our Catholic Cemeteries...

*Rest in His loving arms*

...have a history as old as the catacombs. Early on our forefathers in the Faith found the ministry of burial of the dead most important. From the catacombs, where early Christians met secretly in prayer and entombed the mortal remains of the early martyrs, to today, where the diocesan cemeteries serve the needs of Catholics located in this area. Our Catholic cemeteries silently bear witness to the respect we give the human body, even in death, because of its status as Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Our Catholic Cemeteries provide an environment of comfort in times of sorrow and are meant to continually remind us that Jesus Christ promised one day we would be all together in the Eternal Life of Resurrection.

These policies have been prepared with the approval of the Diocesan Cemetery Committee. The regulations are designed to promote safety, improve the general appearance and facilitate maintenance of the cemeteries. We have tried to establish policies that are fair and safe. Your patience, understanding and cooperation in complying with these guidelines will preserve the safety, beauty and sacredness of our Catholic cemeteries.

Natural cut flowers and artificial flowers are permitted in cemetery approved ground level or pin type vases all during the year. No glass or ceramic vases are permitted. Cemetery personnel will remove the flowers when they become unsightly.

Potted plants are permitted only on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Memorial Day. The potted plants may

be placed on the grave one week prior to the designated day and will be allowed to remain one week after the holiday. Planting or digging is not permitted. Anchors, wires, balloons, temporary markers, statues, photos and novelties are prohibited and will be removed.

Evergreen wreaths, easels on stands, blankets and logs may be placed on the grave from December 15th to January 15th. No live or artificial Christmas trees or lawn ornaments are permitted.

Wreaths on stands or easels are permitted during Easter. They will be removed at the same time that other Easter decorations are removed.

Flags and flag holders are permitted on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veteran's Day only. Cemetery staff may remove them one week after the holiday.

Should you wish to save your decorations please remove them within the allowed time frame.

The VA furnishes a bronze medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone, marker or crypt front for veterans. Applications must be processed through the cemetery office.

Vigil lights and solar lights are prohibited. Miscellaneous containers such as jars, cans, etc. will not be permitted.

Hanging items such as rosary beads and wind chimes are not permitted.

The taping of cards, letters, pictures and other items is not permitted.

Foreign materials such as crushed stone, wood chips, mulch and shells are prohibited and will be removed by the cemetery personnel.

Water, where provided is for watering flowers. Hoses and sprinklers are not permitted.

Please observe the following:

- Park on the road
- No digging for any reason
- No pets allowed
- Visit only during daylight hours

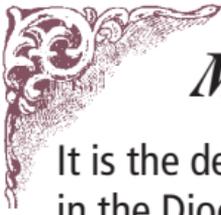
Cemetery maintenance by other than cemetery personnel is prohibited.

The Federal Occupational Health and Safety Act is very specific regarding the adequate protection of employees and visitors. For this reason, we must strictly enforce these guidelines in our cemeteries.



## *Any monument...*

...erected in a Catholic cemetery is intended not only as a memorial to those buried there, but also to reinforce the sacred nature of the place where the human remains of God's people are resting in anticipation of their resurrection, when Christ comes in glory at the end of time. Because of the holiness and the Catholic identity of the cemetery, we require that the Cross be the predominant artistic symbol with names and dates of the deceased also being prominently inscribed. Additional ornamentation such as floral or geometric designs, other sacred symbols and emblems of Catholic fraternal organizations are permitted provided their presence on the monument is subtle and understated in relation to the primary symbol, the cross.

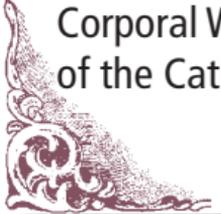


### *Mission Statement*



It is the deepest desire of Catholic Cemeteries in the Diocese of Camden to sacredly bury the dead and bring comfort to the grieving.

Our cemeteries provide holy grounds where we bring respectful dignity to the mortal remains entrusted to our care. We believe that we owe recognition to those previous generations who have lived in faith. In death, as in life, we belong to the Lord.



Our faith in Jesus' Resurrection enables us to offer hope and warmth to the hearts and souls burdened with grief and anxiety. We feel truly blessed and sacredly privileged to practice this Corporal Work of Mercy through the tradition of the Catholic Church.





*Lord God,  
Whose days are without end  
and whose mercies beyond  
counting,  
Keep us mindful  
that life is short and the  
hour of death unknown.*

*Let your spirit guide our  
days on earth  
in the ways of holiness  
and justice,  
that we may serve you  
in union with the whole  
Church, sure in faith,  
strong in hope, perfected  
in love.*

*Amen*

