

Making End-of-Life Choices Today



**ENSURING THAT FINAL WISHES
ARE FULFILLED IS A MATTER
OF CHOICE, NOT CHANCE**

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
DIOCESE OF CAMDEN**

Rest in His loving arms

Where to begin



Given the often complex nature of these decisions, you may find it extremely helpful to consult with a Catholic Cemeteries Counselor in the privacy of your own home.

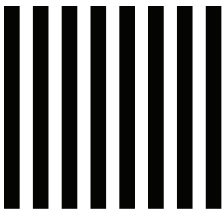
A trained, compassionate expert, he or she will be pleased to provide the valuable information and insights you may need to make the best possible choice based on your specific needs and wishes. To arrange a consultation at your convenience, simply call

 **800-594-4980**

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For most of us, death is a topic to be avoided... until the need arises. Then, we often find that important questions are unanswered, unexpected issues surface, and the physical, emotional and economic demands on surviving family members intensify.

As Catholics, our faith teaches us to look beyond our time on earth to the promise of eternal life. Yet, many of us fail to address the realities that surround our eventual passing or the personal choices and preferences associated with them. This booklet offers a number of suggestions designed to ensure that when the time comes, your final wishes will indeed come true.



DON'T LEAVE YOUR FINAL WISHES TO CHANCE...

Legal Matters

One of the most important steps you can take is to make sure you have *advance medical directives* in place. One such document is a *Living Will*, which provides your directions to doctors and family members about the type of medical care you want to receive if you are incapacitated and unable to make your choices known. Such critical health care decisions may include the use of life support and heroic medical measures.

You should also have a *Health Care Power of Attorney*. Also known as a *Health Care Proxy*, this document allows a person you appoint to make medical decisions on your behalf if at some point in the future you are unable to do so.

A *Durable Power of Attorney* is yet another legal instrument that designates someone you select to manage your assets should you become incapacitated. Of course, you should also have a conventional *Last Will and Testament* in place, which specifies how you want your assets to be distributed after your death. Your Will also allows you to designate the person you want to manage the distribution of your estate. This person may or may not be the same one named in the Durable Power of Attorney.

An estate lawyer can help you draw up these documents and select the best person to implement their provisions if and when the need arises.

“By paying for burial arrangements almost 20 years ago, Dad not only relieved us of all the emotional pressure, his foresight also saved the family over 70% of the current cost.”

Pre-planning a Catholic burial and the role of the Catholic Cemeteries Counselor

Pre-need planning and burial selection is truly a gift to you and your family. Since there are many burial options to choose from, making your preference known to your loved ones ensures that your wishes concerning this final act of Catholic faith will be your own, made thoughtfully, calmly and responsibly, without unnecessary pressure. Moreover, knowing you've made a difficult time easier on your family will give you peace of mind today, just as it will your loved ones in the future.

Today's Catholic burial options include:

- ▶ In-ground burial space
- ▶ Chapel mausoleums
- ▶ Garden mausoleums
- ▶ Columbarium mausoleum cremation niches
- ▶ Cremorial ground-level cremation niches

The practical advantages of pre-planning

Pre-planning your final resting place also offers important financial benefits, particularly in today's challenging economic climate:

- ▶ Purchases of burial space made today ensure important savings and the greatest selection
- ▶ Economical, extended payment plans are often available, with no interest or carrying charges



YES, I'm interested in speaking with a Catholic Cemeteries Counselor about Catholic burial options and the advantages of pre-planning.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Tel. _____

Best time to call _____

Email _____

Remove and mail your completed reply card to us.

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