

Remembering a beloved child

Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden opens at Gethsemane Cemetery

The new Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden at Gethsemane Cemetery in New Hope, Minnesota, offers a reverent and sacred place of prayer and remembrance for bereaved families of all faiths.

Don Warner and his wife, Linda, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, designed and funded the garden in honor of their daughter, Angela, and as a place for healing and hope for anyone coping with the death of a child. Angela died of cystic fibrosis at the age of 21 in 2003.

In his memoir about his daughter, *Walks on the Beach with Angie: A Father's Story of Love* (see below), Warner describes the genesis of the memorial:

"I frequently visit the Chapel Mausoleum at Gethsemane Cemetery where Angie was laid to rest. In the weeks after she passed away, I visited daily and prayed for my darling daughter. Our family's crypts are adjacent to a large glass door and floor-to-ceiling window, facing west. The afternoon sun shines brightly on Angie's photograph and a flower arrangement that adorns her resting place. About thirty feet from the door is a grove of pine trees with open acreage beyond. For the first year or two, I looked out at the pine trees and thought the space called for something special. One day in 2005 an idea hit me. The grove of pine trees was the perfect environment for a memorial to Angela and a prayer garden for other parents who have endured the horror and pain of losing a child."

The Warner family worked closely with The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in creating the design and bringing it to reality.

"I envisioned a welcoming environment of peace and tranquility that would be available for any parent or family member who knows the enormous loss of a precious child, now and in years to come," said Warner.

John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries, said the Children's Memorial is a unique expression of the Warners' faith and love that will offer comfort to those who mourn. "We are grateful to the Warners for honoring their daughter with this wonderful gift to all who visit Gethsemane," he said.

Nestled in the pine tree grove, the memorial plaza features a pool and fountain with a bronze dolphin family emerging from the water, inspired by Angela's lifelong love of dolphins and the ocean. Granite benches surround the pool with its tranquil backdrop of running water, inviting visitors to pause and reflect. An image of Jesus and a child is etched on a granite wall, along with a poem written by the Warners in 2005 in memory of their daughter, entitled "Lament for a Child."

Three bronze angels, created by Italian sculptor Guido Mariani, offer points for reflection:

- The **Angel of the Resurrection**, depicted releasing a butterfly, represents the promise of eternal life in the face of death. A small collage of pictures etched in bronze honors the Warners' daughter.
- The **Angel of Creation** represents God's blessing of life. The angel holds a bronze conch shell formed from such a shell brought back from a beach resort Angela loved in Southern California. The Warners brought it back after Angela's death specifically to be used in designing this sculpture.



Don and Linda Warner

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A FATHER'S STORY OF LOVE

Walks on the Beach with Angie: A Father's Story of Love by Don Warner with Marly Cornell describes the author's relationship with his beloved daughter, Angela, who died from cystic fibrosis at age 21. The devastating grief and loss that Warner and his wife experience prompts him to search for meaning in his daughter's death and ignites a powerful desire to create a lasting legacy in her honor. *Walks on the Beach with Angie* is part of this legacy. To order the book, go to angelawarnerfoundation.org. Proceeds go to support the Angela Warner Foundation.



Dedication set for Memorial Day 2008

The Children's Memorial and Prayer Garden will be dedicated on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2008, immediately following the 10 a.m. Memorial Day Mass at Gethsemane Cemetery in New Hope. Everyone is invited to this special event.

Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., heads new parish outreach effort

Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., has joined The Catholic Cemeteries to spearhead a new effort to support parishes in end-of-life ministries, including bereavement and consolation ministries, Catholic funeral and burial rites, and death education.

As director of the new LifeTransition Ministries of The Catholic Cemeteries, Sr. Fran will develop resources for training, catechesis, consulting services and programs that assist parishes in ministering around issues of death and dying, said John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries.

“We are thrilled to have Sr. Fran join our staff to carry out a major part of our strategic vision, which focuses on strengthening relationships with parishes in the Archdiocese,” said Cherek. “She will oversee the development of expanded pastoral and collaborative relationships with Archdiocesan parishes, related Archdiocesan offices and other agencies as well as expanding the role of The Catholic Cemeteries in providing high quality ministry to all those served by our organization.”

Sr. Fran started her career as a high school religion teacher and later moved into religious education and parish life ministries for several parishes in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. In 1994, she joined the staff at the central office of the Archdiocese, where she held a number of management positions. Prior to her appointment at The Catholic Cemeteries, she served as the director of the Division of Parish Life and Personnel and as a member of Archbishop Flynn’s cabinet.

“I am very excited about this new opportunity to assist The Catholic Cemeteries in its service to parishes. Our goal is to develop and

Sr. Fran Donnelly, B.V.M., is director of LifeTransition Ministries at The Catholic Cemeteries.

provide targeted resources that will help parishes minister to families before, during and after a death occurs,” she said.

Sr. Fran understands the challenges parishes face in this arena.

“Earlier in my career, when I was at St. Thomas the Apostle in St. Paul, I worked directly with families planning funerals. I’ve come to appreciate that this is one of the most significant ministries in parish life, at one of the most intimate moments in the life of a family,” she said. “Yet as parish resources have dwindled and demands on staff increased, parish staff often find it difficult to spend time with and stay connected to families in need.”

Most people are very attuned to making plans for a wedding, but rarely for a funeral, she said. “Survivors are often in shock and not clear about what to do. They need direction and assistance. At the same time, some want to personalize funeral services in ways that may be in conflict with church traditions and rituals. So this can be very challenging work, especially since overworked parish staff must quickly shift their attention and energy on short notice,” she said.

As she embarks on development of the LifeTransitions programming, Sr. Fran said she intends to “do a lot of listening to pastors and staff about how they see us interacting with them and what would be of most value to them. I look forward to learning from them and collaborating on the creation of tools and resources that are practical and valuable.”



Get to Know Sister Fran Donnelly, B.V.M.

- Born in Philadelphia and raised in the Chicago area
- Member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 43 years
- Graduate of Mundelein College, Chicago (B.A.) and University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas (M.A.)
- Taught high school religion classes in Illinois and at Our Lady of Peace High School, St. Paul
- Held parish positions at St. Rose of Lima, Roseville, St. Croix Valley Consolidated Program, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Paul, and Our Lady of Peace, Minneapolis
- Was instrumental in the planning and implementation of a comprehensive assignment board for parish leadership, a just cause employment policy for the Archdiocese, a comprehensive personnel policy manual for parishes and schools, and the Institute for Christian Life and Ministry
- Past member of the board of trustees of Saint Paul Seminary and past chair of the Archdiocesan Council of Religious, Pastoral Council and Sisters Council
- Recipient of the John Ireland Award in 1998 in recognition for work in social justice

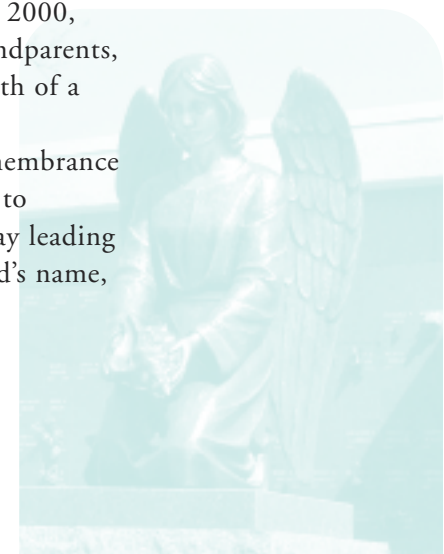
Children’s Memorial and Prayer Garden *continued from page 1*

- The **Angel of the Breath of Life** represents the joy of life and the promise of the kingdom of heaven.

Cherek said the Children’s Memorial at Gethsemane, like Resurrection Cemetery’s Children’s Memorial and Healing Garden established in 2000, offers an important focal place of ministry to bereaved parents, grandparents, relatives and friends — anyone who seeks healing following the death of a child.

“Here they will find a unique and special place for prayer, remembrance and healing. In fact, any bereaved parent will have the opportunity to memorialize a child’s name on paving bricks that border the walkway leading to the Memorial. To learn more about this option to inscribe a child’s name, call The Catholic Cemeteries at 651-228-9991,” he said.

A poem written by Don and Linda Warner is etched on a granite wall as part of Gethsemane’s new Children’s Memorial and Prayer Garden.



Remembering a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

Larry Oster and his wife Lillian had been married for 55 years when Lillian passed away in 2006.

After the mother of six, grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother to three, was interred in the Resurrection Cemetery Chapel Mausoleum, Larry decided he wanted to do something more to preserve her memory.



At the dedication of a bench in memory of his late wife, Lillian, Larry Oster posed with a granddaughter, Haley Ann, and two great-granddaughters, Madison Claire, and Anna Mae.

Working with staff at The Catholic Cemeteries, he decided on a granite bench engraved with the couple's names, hands folded in prayer, a pair of roses — Lillian's favorite flower — and a tribute to dear friend Father Eugene Tiffany, pastor at Holy Spirit in St. Paul.

Last October, Larry hosted a gathering of more than 50 family members and close friends for a prayer service and dedication of the bench, which is located outside the mausoleum.

"It means so much to me to have this bench," he said. "I wanted something special so that our children's children can come here and remember their grandmother and great-grandmother."

Larry said he hopes the bench will be used by Resurrection visitors for years to come. "Resurrection is sacred ground. This is a wonderful place to sit, reflect and say a prayer."

STAFF PROFILE

Baltazar Cardoso is both groundskeeper and ambassador

Baltazar "Balta" Cardoso has always enjoyed working outside. So he was delighted when he got a temporary summer job with The Catholic Cemeteries grounds crew shortly after moving to Minnesota eight years ago.

"I used to live in Chicago and worked in parks, cutting grass and trimming bushes," said Cardoso, a native of south central Mexico. "When the temp agency placed me at a cemetery, I thought this is good."

Cardoso became a full-time employee of The Catholic Cemeteries seven years ago, and handles duties including grave preparation and grounds maintenance primarily at St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis as well as at Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul.

"Balta is a very good cemeterian and excellent caretaker of our grounds," said field manager Eldon Nelson.

"Plus he is a great ambassador for our organization, especially in ministry to Spanish-speaking families who have burials at our cemeteries."

For example, Nelson said, an Ecuadoran family recently had a burial of an infant at St. Mary's, drawing more than 150 mourners. "Balta greeted everyone in Spanish and made them feel welcome at a most sad and difficult time," he said. "It's a tradition in the Hispanic culture for the family to remain at the gravesite and fill the grave in with dirt. Balta made sure shovels were available and helped the family through the entire process. He is an asset to The Catholic Cemeteries."



Balta Cardoso enjoys his work at St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Updates

Living with Grief: Children and Adolescents teleconference hosted

The Catholic Cemeteries hosted the Hospice Foundation of America annual teleconference at St. Raphael's Parish in Crystal in April, the 14th consecutive year that parish bereavement ministers and other community leaders have come together for this live-via-satellite video broadcast. The teleconference panel of experts presented an overview of how children and adolescents grieve and, more importantly, how caregivers of all kinds can help and support children and adolescents when loss enters their young lives. Sixty participants from different parishes and agencies in the archdiocese attended the teleconference.

Waterline repair underway at St. Mary's Cemetery

Beginning this spring, nearly 3,000 feet of piping will be repaired or replaced at St. Mary's Cemetery, part of an effort to repair a major waterline crack at the historic Minneapolis cemetery. The renovated waterline will run from the entrance through the middle of the cemetery, along portions of the north perimeter road, and back to the sections near the mausoleum on the east end of the cemetery.

During this time, water will only be available at marked standpipes in the cemetery or at the maintenance building. Visitors should feel free to request assistance from staff during this time.

New ground cremation section opens at Resurrection

A corner area in Resurrection Cemetery's Section 25 is now available for in-ground cremation burial. Above-ground, slant memorials are permitted for single as well as double inurnments, a memorialization option only available in this section of the cemetery. For more information please contact the Resurrection Cemetery office. Cremation options with slant memorials are also available in St. Mary's Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery.

Pre-planning seminars held at all cemeteries

More than 50 people attended pre-planning seminars this spring, hosted by The Catholic Cemeteries. The seminars provide information, guidance and an opportunity to discuss the range of funeral and burial options available at each cemetery. Participants receive a free pre-planning guide that highlights the Catholic Order of Christian Funerals and cremation in the Catholic Church as well as other take-home materials. If you would like information about The Catholic Cemeteries pre-planning programs and services, call 651-255-0536.

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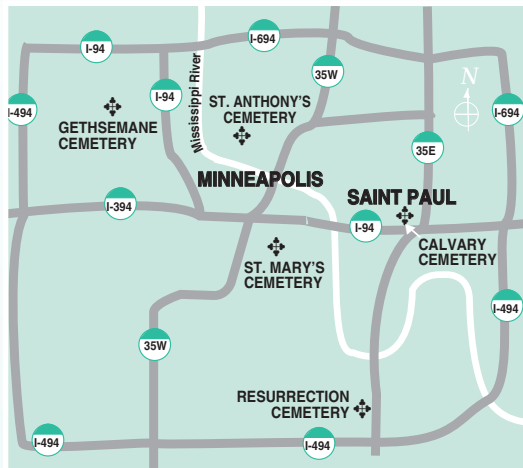
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St. Paul, MN 55103
651-488-8866

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8151 42nd Avenue N.
New Hope, MN 55427
763-537-4184

RESURRECTION CEMETERY
2101 Lexington Ave. S.
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
651-454-5072

ST. ANTHONY'S CEMETERY
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Preserving a family's heritage and a cemetery's beauty

Kathy DeLonais has deep roots at Calvary Cemetery.

Her parents and grandparents are buried at the historic cemetery in St. Paul, as are many aunts, uncles and other relatives from her mother's family. She fondly recalls childhood visits to Calvary, wandering among the stately trees and fascinating monuments.

"I come from a big Irish Catholic family," DeLonais explained. "Calvary has long been part of our family's heritage."

So when she read several years ago about the devastating toll taken by storms and disease on Calvary's forest of stately elms and other shade trees, she decided to take action. She and her husband have contributed for the past four years to The Catholic Cemeteries' John Ireland Memorial Fund, which provides for the planting of new trees, flowers and gardens in the five cemeteries of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

"I want Calvary to always be a lovely, restful place for all who find solace visiting there," she said. "Big beautiful trees are an essential part of that."

Verdant cemeteries offer other benefits as well, she pointed out. "A pretty cemetery is an asset to any community and it's also good for the environment. Green spaces filled with trees provide a home for critters, produce oxygen and help hold ground water," she said.

DeLonais said she likes the idea of the John Ireland Fund because it pools donor gifts of every size in support of The Catholic Cemeteries' reforestation plans.

"Even if you can only give a small amount, it goes into a dedicated fund and all those gifts together can add yet another tree in the cemeteries," she said.

According to John Cherek, director of The Catholic Cemeteries, the John Ireland Fund has been used to plant more than 100 new trees, shrubs and other landscaping since it was launched ten years ago.

"We are so appreciative of donors like the DeLonais family for helping with our efforts to replace the many trees lost in recent years and to preserve the cemeteries' special character and beauty," Cherek said.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the John Ireland Memorial Fund, please call 651-228-9991 or any cemetery office.

Join us on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008

Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated at each cemetery at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 26. Please plan to stay for refreshments at the conclusion of Mass.

In the event of rain, Mass will be at 10 a.m. at the churches listed below:

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY
Church of Holy Name
3637 11th Ave. S., Minneapolis

ST. ANTHONY'S CEMETERY
Church of St. Clement
911 24th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis

Mass will be held RAIN OR SHINE at:

GETHSEMANE CEMETERY
8151 42nd Ave. N., New Hope

RESURRECTION CEMETERY
2101 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights

CALVARY CEMETERY
753 Front Ave., St. Paul

Office Hours on Memorial Day Weekend

During the Memorial Day weekend, each Cemetery office has extended hours as follows:

Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Grave Decorations for Memorial Day

During the days before and after Memorial Day, artificial flowers, potted plants, decorations or other ornaments are allowed. These types of decorations can be placed on graves beginning at noon on Thursday, May 22, and remain there until Sunday, June 1. Decorations should be removed by this date; otherwise, the cemetery staff will begin pickup on Monday, June 2. After that time, we request fresh-cut flowers only during the growing season.

CEMETERY HOURS

Every day of the year, cemetery grounds are open from 8 a.m. to dusk (generally 5 p.m. in the winter). All cemetery offices are normally open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon at Resurrection and Gethsemane.



Heritage

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