

Announcing the establishment of the
**CATHOLIC PARISH
CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION
OF THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH**

Burying the dead, one of the corporal works of mercy, shows our **respect for the deceased** as they await the resurrection of the body and our **care for families** during their time of loss. Cemeteries serve as the **final resting places** for those who have died and as **places of memorial and prayer** for their families. They are **sacred places** where the dead wait to be **reunited with the Lord** on the last day. The establishment of the **Catholic Parish Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh** seeks to **relieve** parishes from the **challenges** parish cemeteries present while **maintaining the high quality of care** for the deceased and their families.

CURRENT STATISTICS REGARDING PARISH CEMETERIES:

- ◆ **78 parishes** operate **116 cemeteries**
- ◆ Some cemeteries **perform interments** a few times a week, while others a few times a year
- ◆ Some of the models for parishes proposed as part of the *On Mission for The Church Alive!* **planning process** could result in **one parish** maintaining **six or more cemeteries**

ESSENTIALS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC PARISH CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION (CPCA):

- ◆ A 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that will **operate and maintain parish cemeteries**
- ◆ **Parishes will maintain ownership** of cemeteries, which will be **licensed to CPCA**
- ◆ Parish cemetery **perpetual care funds** will be **enhanced** and **operating procedures standardized**
- ◆ **Three regional administrative centers** will house all records and oversee cemetery activity:
 - the **Cecil Township center** will serve Greene and Washington counties
 - the **New Castle center** will serve Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties
 - the **West End center** at the former Guardian Angels Parish will serve Allegheny County
 - Contact information for these centers will be shared once locations are finalized
- ◆ **Transition of records and operations** will **take place gradually** during 2017
 - Cemeteries in Greene and Washington counties will be the first to join the CPCA
 - **All personnel** involved in the **on-site care and maintenance** of the parish cemeteries and **all third party contractor agreements** will be **retained**.

While the Jubilee Year of Mercy has recently ended, the works of mercy never cease to be an essential part of the Christian life. The CPCA is yet another way these good works can be lived in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Pope Francis continues to encourage us in this endeavor:

*The Holy Year, a time rich in mercy, must continue to be **celebrated** and **lived out** in our communities. Mercy cannot become a mere parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, through which the profound truths of the Gospel are made manifest and tangible.*

- Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et misera* at the Close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

to **feed** the **hungry** to **welcome** the **stranger**
to **clothe** the **naked** to **visit** the **imprisoned**
to **visit** the **sick** to **give drink** to the **thirsty**
to **bury** the **dead** *the corporal
works of mercy*