



Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc

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December 2019

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Greetings!

As we approach this blessed season it is helpful to recall the blessings that we have

received in the past year. Your Catholic Cemeteries Association (CCA) has worked diligently to provide a peaceful and beautiful environment as a final resting place for your loved ones and family. We have opened new sections which allow you to create fully customizable monuments, conducted an extensive tree reduction program for your safety as well as replaced and repaired roads and walkways to add to the serenity of our properties.

As always feel free to contact us so we can answer any questions or concerns you may have about your Catholic Cemeteries Association.



On behalf of all of us at CCA, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New year!

Peace,

John Pinone

December 2019 Special

*Enjoy **0%** Financing*

during the month of December

*Wishing you a Very Merry
Christmas!*

Listen to us on the Radio!

***Join us Thursday morning
December 5th between 7:00 -
8:00 am***



Tune in at 1360 AM, 103.3 FM, 1470 AM (Meriden), and 610 AM (Torrington) to hear Chris Radlicz, our Family Service Director from Catholic Cemeteries Association speak about the importance of Pre-Planning and answer your questions LIVE on the air. Please call in at 888-574-2723.

Featured Cemetery...

Sacred Heart Cemetery

250 Gypsy Lane

Meriden, CT

Manager: Keith Angilly



Visit the beautiful Sacred Heart Mausoleum. Just outside there is a **New Cremation Garden** as well as outdoor crypt spaces. Call one of our **Family Service Advisors** for an appointment today at 203 237-3226.



Our **New Cremation Garden** offers a variety of Headstones colors, and memorial bench options placed within the garden. Memorial benches also allow visitors the opportunity to reflect and pray.

Want to learn more?

Dignity of Life Seminars



This Archdiocesan approved program is successfully assisting parishioners with elder care and end-of-life planning. The goal of the session is to provide educational and resource information in the areas of burial, funeral, and estate planning. Let a panel of experts assist you and your loved ones. Call our Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Gode for more information about other Outreach programs, (203) 780-8418.

Please visit our website online at www.ccacem.org for more information about us and for a list of Seminars being offered in 2020.

If you would like to offer a Dignity of Life Seminar at your parish, please contact our Outreach coordinator, Barbara at 203 780-8418

To register for a 2020 seminar email us at: bgode@ccacem.org

Did you know that pre-planning is the greatest gift to leave your loved ones?



Join us for our next Dignity of Life Seminar, meet our staff and enjoy light refreshments. A Family Service Advisor is available to answer questions and offer information about special discounts, memorials and more. Visit our website at www.ccacem.org to find one of our 30 Cemeteries nearest you.

CT Catholic Men's Conference 2019!



Bristol-St. Paul Catholic High School

Catholic Cemeteries Association attended the recent Catholic Men's conference on October 19th. What a blessing for faithful Catholic Men to gather together in celebration of their faith!

Save the Date for us next year on Saturday, October 17, 2020.

We remember...

*Memorial
Christmas Tree
Program*

All are welcome to



place a remembrance ornament on our tree in memory of your beloved.

Removal and return on **Jan. 6th**. Pick up your ornament at the Cemetery Office. Thank you in advance for participating! Merry Christmas!

Experiencing Complicated Grief?

Grief is a normal result from the loss of a loved one, but sometimes it can become complicated. Our small-sized adult group provides the right amount of connection, understanding, emotional and spiritual support in an atmosphere that is non-judgmental and confidential.

There are two programs being offered at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish in North Haven:

A Remembrance Service-Preparing for New Beginnings-Advent Service is scheduled for **December 3rd** at 6 PM. Please register.

Adult Support Group: The group will begin on **May 5th every Tuesday evening at 6-8 PM until June**. Please register.

To register for either both or one of the programs being offered, please contact the Facilitator, Barbara at 203 605-9845.



Give the Gift of Light all year long...

Memorial Candles are available for lease in our Mausoleums

Looking for a way to Memorialize a loved one? We have just the perfect gift suggestion...**a memorial candle**. Your electronic candle will glow for one or more years in loving remembrance of that special someone.

To learn more, call us 203 239-2557. A Family Service Advisor is waiting to assist you.



A way to give back...



We are accepting non-perishable food items to support the local Food bank and shelters until Jan. 6th, 2020. A drop-off box is located in the mausoleum. Thank you in advance for your kind donation!

Peace on earth to men of good will Luke 2:14

A word from Pope Francis...

Christ's Birth Is the Source of Hope

by Pope Francis

DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

Pope Francis General Audience Address of December 21, 2016

PUBLISHER & DATE

Vatican, December 21, 2016



We have recently begun a catechetical journey on the theme of hope, which is so very appropriate in the Season of Advent. The Prophet Isaiah has guided us up to this point. Today, just days before Christmas, I would like to reflect more specifically on the moment in which, so to speak, *hope came into the world*, with the incarnation of the Son of God. It was also Isaiah who foretold the birth of the Messiah in several passages: "Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (7:14); and also: "there shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots" (11:1). In these passages, the meaning of Christmas shines through: God fulfills the promise by becoming man; not abandoning his people, he draws near to the point of stripping himself of his divinity. In this way God shows his fidelity and inaugurates a new Kingdom, which gives a *new hope to mankind*. And what is this hope? Eternal life.

When we speak of hope, often it refers to what is not in man's power to realize, which is invisible. In fact, what we hope for goes beyond our strength and our perception. But the Birth of Christ, inaugurating redemption, speaks to us of a different hope, a dependable, visible and understandable hope, because it is founded in God. He comes into the world and gives us the strength to walk with him: God walks with us in Jesus, and walking with him toward the fullness of life

gives us the strength to dwell in the present in a new way, albeit arduous. Thus for a Christian, to hope means the certainty of being on a journey with Christ toward the Father who awaits us. Hope is never still; hope is always journeying, and it makes us journey. This hope, which the Child of Bethlehem gives us, offers a destination, a sure, ongoing goal, salvation of mankind, blessedness to those who trust in a merciful God. Saint Paul summarizes all this with the expression: “in this hope we were saved” (Rom 8:24). In other words, walking in this world, with hope, we are saved. Here we can ask ourselves the question, each one of us: am I walking with hope or is my interior life static, closed? Is my heart a locked drawer or a drawer open to the hope which enables me to walk — not alone — with Jesus?

In Christian homes, during the Season of Advent, *the Nativity scene* is arranged, according to the tradition which dates back to Saint Francis of Assisi. In its simple way, the Nativity scene conveys hope; each one of the characters is immersed in this atmosphere of hope.

First of all we note the place in which Jesus was born: *Bethlehem*. A small village in Judea where, thousands of years earlier, David was born, the shepherd boy chosen by God to be the King of Israel. Bethlehem is not a capital city, and for this reason is preferred by divine Providence, who loves to act through the little ones and the humble. In that birthplace was born the highly anticipated “Son of David”, Jesus, in whom the hope of God and the hope of man meet.

Then we look to *Mary*, Mother of hope. With her ‘yes’ she opened the door of our world to God: her maiden’s heart was full of hope, wholly enlivened by faith; and thus God chose her and she believed in his word. She, who for nine months was the Ark of the new and eternal Covenant, in the grotto, contemplates the Child and sees in him the love of God, who comes to save his people and the whole of humanity.

Next to Mary is *Joseph*, a descendant of Jesse and of David; he too believed in the words of the angel, and looking at Jesus in the manger, reflects on the fact that that Child has come from the Holy Spirit, and that God himself commanded him to call [the Child] ‘Jesus’. In that name there is hope for every man and woman, because through that son of woman, God will save mankind from death and from sin. This is why it is important to contemplate the Nativity scene! In the Nativity scene there are also *shepherds*, who represent the humble and poor who await the Messiah, the “consolation of Israel” (Lk 2:25), and the “redemption of Jerusalem” (2:38). In this Child they see the realization of the promises and hope that the salvation of God will finally arrive for each of them. Those who trust in their own certainties, especially material, do not await God’s salvation. Let us keep this in mind: our own assurance will not save us; the only certainty that will save us is that of hope in God. It will save us because it is strong and enables us to journey in life with joy, with the will to do good, with the will to attain eternal happiness. The little ones, the shepherds, instead trust in God, hope in him and rejoice when they recognize in that Child the sign indicated by the angels (cf. Lk 2:12).

The very *choir of angels* proclaims from on high the great design that the Child fulfills: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased” (2:14). Christian hope is expressed in praise and gratitude to

God, who has initiated his Kingdom of love, justice and peace.

Dear brothers and sisters, in these days, contemplating the Nativity scene, we prepare ourselves for the Birth of the Lord. It will truly be a celebration if we welcome Jesus, the seed of hope that God sets down in the furrows of our individual and community history. Every 'yes' to Jesus who comes, is a bud of hope. Let us trust in this bud of hope, in this 'yes': "Yes, Jesus, you can save me, you can save me". Happy Christmas of hope to all!

Special greetings:

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, particularly those from Australia, Japan and the United States of America. I pray that each of you, and your families, may experience a blessed Advent, in preparation for the coming of the newborn Saviour at Christmas. God bless you!

I greet the Scouts who have brought the flame from the Crib of the Nativity in Bethlehem. I invite everyone to pray and to commit themselves to works of mercy so that Christmas may be a personal encounter with the Lord and give rise in us to good intentions to foster solidarity.

Lastly I address a special greeting to *young people*, to *the sick* and to *newlyweds*. Dear *young people*, prepare yourselves for the mystery of the Incarnation with the faithful obedience and humility that Mary had. You, dear *sick people*, draw from her that strength and ardour for Jesus who comes among us. And you, dear *newlyweds*, contemplate the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth, in order to practice the same virtues on your journey of family life.

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Thank you!



Oct. 6th, Mass & Procession-Our Lady's Feast Day Celebration!

All Saints Cemetery-North Haven

Catholic Cemeteries Association would like to thank all those who participated in our Feast Day celebration in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary. A special thanks to

Rev. Michael Santiago our celebrant, and the **Legion of Mary** members of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity parish, and the Ray of Hope Foundation for donating the beautiful rosaries again this year. May God bless you all.

Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Victory, Our Queen of Peace...

Pray for us!



***All Souls Mass
took place on
Nov. 2nd at All
Saints and
Mt. St. Benedict
Cemeteries-***

***Many thanks to all our participants
and attendees!***