



Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc

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February 2019

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Greetings! ■

Happy New Year! As part of our ongoing outreach to Catholic families of the Archdiocese of Hartford we have launched the 2019 series of Dignity of Life Seminars. These seminars bring together the Cemeteries Association, Funeral Directors, Elder Care attorneys and Probate Judges to help you answer the questions you have about important end of life care and issues. I urge you to

take advantage of these purely educational events to give you and your families the best knowledge possible to face these significant events in all of our lives. As I look out on the cemetery and see all of the beautiful flowered grave blankets and decorations I am reminded of why we are called to be of service to our Catholic Community. The Rite of Christian Burial is a vital part of our faith. Seeing these outward expressions of love and faith are an ongoing reminder of the duty we have to our families to keep these sacred grounds as



welcoming places of remembrance and peace. As the season of Lent approaches in March let us all remember the sacrifice of the One for the salvation of all.

Peace,

John Pinone

***During the month of February, 2019 get a
10% discount on any Grave or
Mausoleum Crypt
purchased from the Catholic Cemeteries
Association.***

***Advanced Planning—The Gift that Lasts an
Eternity***

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.

Dignity of Life Seminars at a glance-

February 6th, 2018 (Wednesday)

**Bristol Senior Center
240 Stafford Ave.
Bristol, CT
Time: 10:30 am**

February 15th, 2019 (Thursday)

**St. Augustine
10 Campfield Ave.
Hartford, CT
Time: 2pm and 6pm**

February 20th, 2019 (Wednesday)

**St. Ambrose Parish-
St. Monica Church Hall
1331 Middletown Ave.
Northford, CT
Time: 2pm (only)**

March 7th (Thursday)

**Our Lady Queen of Angels-
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Campus
109 Goodwill Ave.
Meriden, CT**

Times: 3pm and 6pm

March 14th, 2019 (Thursday)

Doyle Senior Center

153 Main St.

Ansonia, CT

Time: 10:30 am

March 21st, 2019 (Thursday)

St. Thomas the Apostle

872 Farmington Ave.

W. Hartford, CT

Times: 1pm, 6pm

To register for a Dignity of Life Seminar, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Barbara Gode at 203 780-8418



Calvary Cemetery

Waterbury, CT

Manager: Stephen Komar

Office: 203 754-9105

A Gentle Reminder!



Removal of Winter Decorations...

If you wish to retain any winter decorations, please do so before **March 1st**. Decorations will not be retained by the cemetery.

If weather conditions do not permit removal on March 1st, they will be

removed as soon as practical after this date. It can take weeks to remove all winter decorations in preparation for the Easter season. Thank you for helping to keep our community looking its best!



Thank you!

Catholic Cemeteries Association would like to thank all those who participated in the **Annual Food Drive** in December. We collected hundreds of non-perishable food items to support the Food Pantries in Bloomfield, Branford, Derby, East Haven, Manchester, Meriden, New Britain, North Haven, Torrington, Waterbury, Watertown and West Haven. May God abundantly bless you for your generosity!

Pictured: Tricia Vuolo

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever
-Psalm 107:1



Memento Mori — Remember You Will Die

Christ is calling you to repent and reform your life. It's never too late — that is, until it's too late.

Angelo Stagnaro

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away. "No one knows, however, when that day or hour will come—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son; only the Father knows. Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge,

■ after giving to each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming—it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!" (Mk 13:31-37)

Memento mori is a Latin phrase that means "Remember your death."

In ancient Rome, triumphant Roman generals would command a slave to whisper in his ear the phrase, "*Memento mori. Remember you will die*" as the general received the adulations of the crowds. The practice kept the general humbled and grounded. The phrase is meant to remind Christians of their own mortality with a strong emphasis on death, Divine Judgment, Heaven, Hell and the salvation of the soul. To the Christian, the prospect of death serves to emphasize the vapid and ephemeral nature of earthly pleasures, luxuries, titles and achievements. By so keeping one's mortality and the uncertainty of the time of one's death in mind, it thus becomes an invitation to focus on the afterlife. As Scripture teaches us:

Whatever you do, remember that someday you must die. As long as you keep this in mind, you will

never sin. (Sirach 7:36)

By remembering our eventual death, Christians come to understand this world will pass away. When an individual dies, as far as he's concerned, the world has, in fact, ended. Spiritually speaking, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Church teaches that we should prepare ourselves to receive Extreme Unction at the end of our lives by receiving Reconciliation and the Eucharist often, by engaging in the acts of mercy, by living a virtuous life, by developing one's prayer life and by resigning ourselves to God's will. By doing this, we will come to a happy end. After all, a wise and rational person anticipates the inevitable. It is not a sign of wisdom, let alone sanity, to continually put off the one thing that ultimately defines us as mortals. As Scriptures teach us:

Someone who is always thinking about happiness is a fool. A wise person thinks about death. (Ecclesiastes 7:4)

The Japanese liken life to the *sakura* (or "cherry blossom") which flourishes only for a very short time. They will take off time from their busy schedules to simply walk among nearby cherry trees and contemplate their existence. This tiny, beautiful white flower has a magnificent fragrance. But it's here today and gone tomorrow. Such is the impermanence of life.

We can never know how and when we will die. Death comes like a thief in the night regardless of how we have led our lives (1Thessalonians 5:2). The wise, rational person will prepare while they can. In death, we lose all of our physical possessions and our academic, personal and professional accomplishments. The only thing we take with us is our soul. Generally, we'll die as we have lived just as Christ tells us, "All who take the sword will die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52)

The temptations of this world are highly attractive. In many cases, we don't even realize we have succumbed to them. Pride is considered the deadliest sin because all other sins are dependent upon it and because it sneakily worms its way into our lives. People will proudly rationalize their bad behavior and as we approach death, we might be tempted to abandon our faith. A Christian should be confident in death but this is only possible if we've led a holy life. We should all ask ourselves if we have lived our lives in accordance with the wishes of the Lord of All or the prince of this world. Christ is calling you to repent and reform your life. It's never too late — that is, until it's too late.

We all remember the saints in our lives but the wicked live only in infamy and are people we prefer to forget. The saints are the only ones we want to remember. The good among us will die surrounded by loving friends and family who will pray for them. We believe the deceased will, in turn pray for the living. In fact, Padre Pio and St. Thérèse of Lisieux looked forward to being in Heaven so that they might work great miracles for us here on Earth. These two saints, among countless others, planned well for their deaths by living Christ-centered lives.

"May the Almighty Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death." (from the Final Blessing of Night Prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours)

Resource: <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/astagnaro/memento-mori-remember-you-will-die>

What's your Attitude?

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6th this year. Many Christians fast or abstain from meat especially on Ash Wed., Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen noted that the Catholic attitude is "First comes the fast, then comes the feast." Is this your attitude?

I'd like to hear from you.

bgode@ccacem.org

