

St. Callistus Herald

Fall 2011

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery – Lansing, Michigan † New Calvary Catholic Cemetery – Flint, Michigan

Saint Callistus

A Christian slave of Rome, Callistus was ordained a deacon by Pope St. Zephyrinus, whom he succeeded as pope in the year 217. As a deacon he was guardian of the Christian cemetery on the Appian Way, which is still known by his name. While he vigorously opposed heresy, his charitable attitude toward repentant sinners incurred the wrath of contemporary rigorists.



We are your neighborhood cemetery

Recently I was reading a trade magazine article on Catholic cemeteries. It was an article whose theme I have heard innumerable times during my career. It's a theme worth repeating every now and then: "Yes, there is a difference between a Catholic cemetery and a secular cemetery."

Obviously, we mow grass, trim memorials, pick up trash like every other cemetery I know. We have ground personnel and an office staff who are courteous and respectful. We utilize standard industry equipment, methods and protocol for interment services – nothing special or unique there.

But we are different – not in what we do or how we do it, but because of who and what we are. Our difference is our religious tradition and our religious nature. We are a religious cemetery, specifically a Catholic cemetery.

The religious activities at the cemeteries remind us God is as much a part of our daily cemetery activities as mowing and trimming the grass.

For New Calvary Catholic and St. Joseph Catholic Cemeteries, the burial of the dead is not a business, it is a religious activity, a ministry of the church.

In October, we sponsor our annual "Gone but not forgotten ..." Masses in the parishes of Lansing

and Genesee Counties. This parish celebration is an opportunity not only to revere and remember our deceased friends, relatives and neighbors. It also is an opportunity to pray for them in the local setting we knew them. When it is a friend and neighbor, it is especially important for us to grieve their loss and remember them to God.

On Nov. 2, **All Souls Day Mass** is celebrated in the New Calvary Mausoleum.

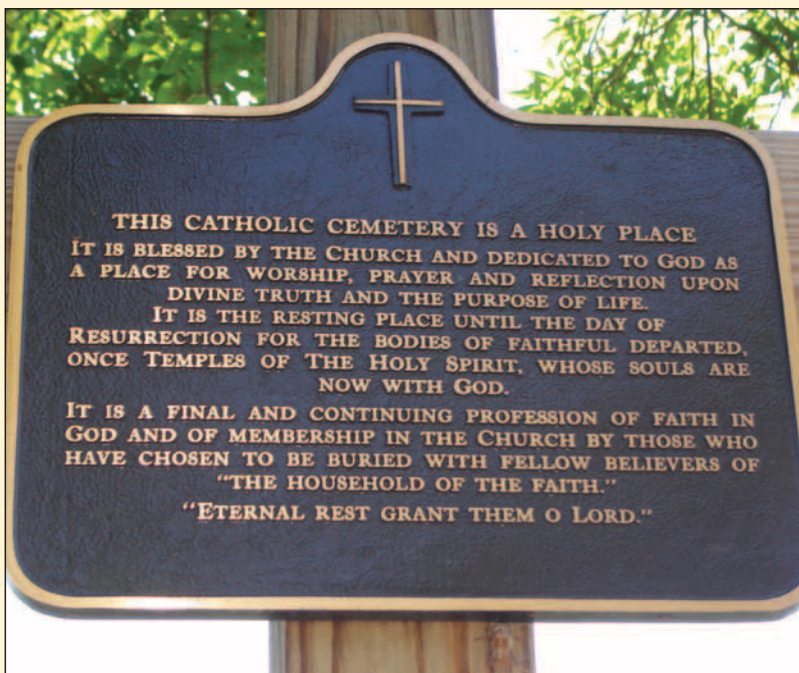
This Mass reminds us not everyone gets a "Pass purgatory, go straight to heaven" card. The mausoleum itself emphasizes one day we also will be there and will want someone to remember and pray for us.

In our Catholic cemeteries, praying for the dead is part of who we are and what we do. It's been a part of our tradition since the catacombs.

Lastly, I urge you to visit a Catholic cemetery on **Catholic Cemetery Sunday**, Nov. 6. Take some time for reflection and pray for everyone buried there. We read in Maccabees (12:45) – "It is holy and devout" to pray for the dead. Our Catholic cemeteries are really beautiful and peaceful places. You'll be glad you went.

In Catholic cemeteries We remember ... We celebrate ... We believe.

– Paul D. Garriépy,
Director of Cemeteries and
Property Management



"Gone but not forgotten..."

We remember our loved ones after their passing and in keeping with our faith, the Diocese of Lansing Cemeteries offer a series of Masses for our recently deceased each fall corresponding with the feast of St. Callistus I, who was a pope, martyr and a cemetery worker. At our cemeteries our mission does not end with the burial. Catholic cemeteries exist because every life is worth loving and remembering – always. Mass schedule is as follows:

New Calvary Catholic Cemetery

Oct. 9, 2011

9:45 a.m. Christ the King, Flint

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011

4:00 p.m. Good Shepherd, Montrose

4:30 p.m. Holy Rosary, Flint

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011

7:00 a.m. St. Mary, Mt. Morris

8:00 a.m. Holy Family, Grand Blanc

8:00 a.m. St. John Vianney, Flint

8:00 a.m. St. John the Evangelist, Davison

8:00 a.m. St. Mary, Queen of Angels, Swartz Creek

8:30 a.m. Blessed Sacrament, Burton

9:00 a.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint

9:30 a.m. St. Pius X, Flint

9:30 a.m. St. Robert Bellarmine, Flushing

10:00 a.m. Our Lady of Lebanon, Flint

10:00 a.m. St. Matthew, Flint

10:00 a.m. St. John the Evangelist, Fenton

11:00 a.m. All Saints, Flint

11:00 a.m. St. Mary, Flint

11:30 a.m. St. Matthew, Flint

TBA (check parish bulletin) St. Michael Byzantine, Flint

Old Calvary Catholic Cemetery

Monday, May 28, 2012 Memorial Day

10:00 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011

4:30 p.m. St. Mary, Charlotte

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011

9:30 a.m. Resurrection, Lansing

10:00 a.m. St. John Student, East Lansing

10:00 a.m. St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing

9:00 a.m. St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing

10:00 a.m. St. Martha, Okemos

10:30 a.m. St. Peter, Eaton Rapids

11:00 a.m. St. Andrew Dung Lac, Lansing

11:00 a.m. St. Mary, Williamston

11:30 a.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lansing

12:00 p.m. Cristo Rey, Lansing

6:00 p.m. St. Jude, DeWitt

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011

8:30 a.m. St. Casimir, Lansing

Friday, Oct. 21, 2011

9:05 a.m. St. Michael, Grand Ledge

Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011

8:30 a.m. St. Therese, Lansing

11:00 a.m. St. Gerard, Lansing

11:00 a.m. St. James, Mason

TBA (check parish bulletin) St. Joseph Melkite, Lansing

Monday, May 28, 2012 Memorial Day

10:00 a.m. St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery



Liturgy ~ Prayer ~ Comfort ~ Instruction ~ Evangelization

**Please remember your Catholic cemeteries
in your will.**

What: All Souls Day Mass

**Where: New Calvary Catholic
Cemetery Mausoleum**

When: Nov. 2, 2011

Time: Noon

**Main celebrant and homilist: Father Thomas
Firestone, pastor of St. John Vianney parish,
Flint, celebrating with other Flint area priests.**

Choral group: Singing Knights

Light refreshments served after Mass

*"We have loved him in Life – Let us
not forget him in death."*

– St. Ambrose

Updates

People in the news – never too young to remember



▶▶ With a little prayer and a lot of gratitude, the youth groups of St. Robert and St. Pius X parishes took time off from their busy school schedule to visit New Calvary Catholic Cemetery and place a flag at each veteran's marker prior to Memorial Day. Special thanks to the Coordinator of Youth Ministry at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish for organizing this event, as well as the parents and chaperones who accompanied the students. The effort was appreciated by family members of deceased veterans. Thank you all.

Cemetery beautification

▶▶ Volunteers, workers and staff have enhanced the entrance to St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Minor repairs have been made to the statue of St. Joseph and the flower bed refreshed. We wish to thank all who participated in this small but important beautification project.



Memorial Day Mass well attended

▶▶ Speaking of Memorial Day, 2011, once again the Memorial Day Masses held at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Lansing and Old Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Flint were well attended. The rain stayed away allowing everyone to pay their respect to those who served and died in the armed forces. A special thank you to the

cemetery grounds staff for their work in preparing the cemeteries. The staff of Old Calvary Catholic Cemetery would also like to thank the Knights of Columbus Singing Knights, the Marine Corps League for their help and especially thank the Donnelly family for the refreshments after Mass.

Beneficiary support

▶▶ Have you considered remembering New Calvary Catholic Cemetery or St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in your will? This is a wonderful way to continue supporting the cemetery's work, as well as offering you or your family an opportunity to be remembered by future visitors and at future cemetery Masses.

Each cemetery has a number of projects that come under the heading of "nice to have," but not until the money is available. We appreciate the support we now receive and have used your donations for the beautification of the cemetery for present and future generations.

If you or your family wish to contribute to one of these projects, contact the cemetery office for details. Your name will be placed on a donor board, and as a cemetery benefactor you or your family will be remembered at all cemetery sponsored Masses.

For more details, stop by the cemetery office, or visit our website: www.dioceseoflansing.org/cemeteries.

St. Callistus Herald is published in the spring and fall by the Diocese of Lansing Cemeteries for New Calvary Catholic Cemetery and St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. If you wish to be placed on our permanent mailing list, please contact either cemetery office.

Care Notes[®]

Care Notes[®] support literature brings messages of hope and compassion to those who recently suffered a loss, are grieving or know someone who is dying.

Sometimes it takes more than one way to communicate with a grieving person. They may not be ready to talk or listen so soon after the loss of a loved one. People in pain may be waiting for "the right words at the right time."

Care Notes[®] help you provide these words through simple, uplifting language that is grounded in faith. These small easy to read pamphlets are uplifting and inspirational support booklets that may help deal with grief and loss. They are written for the grieving person, as well as others who wish to offer support and comfort.

The Cemetery Offices of St. Joseph and New Calvary Catholic Cemeteries provide the popular "take one" Care Notes[®] booklets without cost. They also are available in many local parish gathering areas or pamphlet racks.

Bereavement support group begins Oct. 4, 2011

Pastor of St. John Vianney Parish, Father Thomas Firestone and Ms. Karen Beamer, manager of New Calvary Catholic Cemetery announce a collaborative sponsorship of *Learning to Live with Grief*, a seven week bereavement support group meeting at St. John Vianney Parish Community Room beginning Oct. 4, 2011.

Ms. Beamer says that when death visits a family, a journey of separation begins and New Calvary Catholic Cemetery is seen as a journey partner throughout the entire grieving process. According to Beamer, "our cemetery will be able to reach out to not only our families who have chosen New and Old Calvary Catholic Cemeteries as the final resting place of loved ones, but to the Flint community."

"Our support for this bereavement group," says Beamer, "expands [New Calvary Catholic Cemetery's] mission of burying the dead and the care of their graves to acknowledging those who are mourning the loss of a loved one and also need our services. We have a wonderful and experienced facilitator in Sheila Kelly."

Sheila Kelly is a certified grief counselor and has 20 years experience as a clinical social worker and five years as a bereavement group facilitator. "I understand grieving is a difficult



journey," states Kelly, "and trying something new is scary. ... Having others with you can be comforting. ... Though there may be tears, there can also be laughter."

Learning to Live With Grief will meet every Tuesday beginning Oct. 4 and subsequent Tuesdays for seven weeks, 10 a.m. to noon. There is no fee and it is open to all who have experienced loss.

For more information or to sign up: Call Sheila Kelly at 810.874.6609

Bishop's shrine –welcoming visitors to St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

On Nov. 22, 1966, Bishop Alexander Zaleski gave his approval of a sketch design for cemetery statuary and an altar for St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. This shrine was to serve not only as the cemetery entrance focal point, but as a shrine honoring the bishops and priests of Lansing.

The cemetery sanctuary is the final resting place of Lansing bishops. Entombed behind the altar are Joseph Albers (1937-1965); Alexander Zaleski (1965-1975) and Kenneth Povish (1975-1995). Diocese of Lansing native Joseph Green, first auxiliary bishop of Lansing and third bishop of Reno, Nev., is buried to the side of the altar.

Behind the shrine is the final resting place of priests of the Diocese

of Lansing who wish to be buried at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. The Priest's Lot contains 12 priests including several who founded local parishes.



Cemetery beautification

Cemetery staff will begin the annual fall cemetery clean-up between Oct. 1 and Oct. 20, 2011. Families should remove any decorations they wish to save before Oct. 1. Summer decorations will be removed and discarded. Winter decorations will be welcomed after Nov. 1, 2011 and will remain in the cemetery until spring clean-up.

To keep the cemeteries beautiful and to provide a safe environment, we ask the cooperation of everyone – family, friends, visitors and staff.

During the winter months

- Rocks, toys, wire fences, vigil lights, shepherd hooks and similar objects are unsafe and can hinder winter burials and are not permitted in cemeteries.
- Any objects that can be hidden by snow cover are not permitted during winter months.

Because the cemeteries are open to the public with hundreds of visitors annually, it is impossible to control the activities and behavior of every visitor. We regret that we cannot guarantee that decorations will be protected from damage or loss.

Any decoration deemed by management to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations will be removed and discarded without notice. Cemetery management assumes no liability to owners for removing and discarding these items.

A copy of cemetery regulations and grave decoration policies is available in the cemetery office.

St. Joseph Cemetery hosts cemetery walk

►► Sunday, Aug. 21, 2011, St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery hosted a cemetery walk sponsored by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and led by Ms. Valerie Marvin, president of the HSGL.

Participants were introduced to the history and growth of Catholicism in the Lansing area, Catholic burial practices and Catholic cemetery statuary and symbolism, as well as stops at prominent burial places including the Bishops Shrine, the graves of several priests who founded some of Lansing parishes and the mausoleum.

Welcome Christy Groulx

Family Service Representative
at New Calvary Catholic Cemetery

►► A member of St. John Parish in Davison. Christy joined the cemetery office in late June. Christy brings to New Calvary Catholic Cemetery years of customer service experience in Genesee County and her personal philosophy of “giving of yourself and helping others,” which will be appreciated by our families who have chosen New Calvary Catholic Cemetery as the final resting place for their family members. Welcome Christy.



Charitable Contributions

The Diocese of Lansing Cemeteries are honored to have been chosen as the final resting place of your deceased loved ones. We realize and embrace the responsibility entrusted to us. The care of loved ones and their graves is our priority. We strive to have our cemeteries be a place of comfort and present an atmosphere for prayerful visitation.

Your tax-deductible charitable contribution assists us in achieving these goals. Each cemetery has opportunities for charitable and memorial giving in honor of a family member, a friend or for a particular project. For more information, visit our website www.dioceseoflansing.org or call the cemetery office.

Myths and truths about Catholic cemeteries

The Catholic Church is filled with mysteries: The mystery of the Holy Trinity, the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, the mystery of Jesus rising from the dead, etc. While our Catholic cemeteries are not mysterious there are persistent myths that surround them and often cause confusion. The following is an attempt to set the record straight.

Myth: The Catholic Church doesn't allow cremation.

Truth: In Vatican II the Church stated it still preferred burial of the body because it more fully exemplifies our belief in the resurrection of the body on the last day. However it also stated that cremation was an acceptable alternative for final disposition of the body as long as it was not done in an attempt to deny resurrection.

Myth: Once cremated, ashes can be divided among family members, scattered in various places such as a favorite hunting spot or garden, scattered in the ocean, etc. They can be turned into various keepsakes, like rings and pendants, or a small amount can be kept in a locket and worn around one's neck.

Truth: Cremated remains must be treated with the same dignity and respect as the body and must be buried or entombed, preferably in a Catholic cemetery, intact and in a suitable vessel to await resurrection. Cremated remains may be buried at sea such as in the case of John F. Kennedy, Jr. but again they must be intact and in a suitable vessel. Catholic cemeterians cannot and will not knowingly bury partial cremated remains in our cemeteries.

Myth: I can hold onto my spouse's ashes until I die and they can be mixed together before burial.

Truth: Cremated remains cannot be co-mingled. Each of us is an individual child of God and we belong to Him and no one else. Catholic cemeterians cannot bury co-mingled ashes or bury two bodies in the same casket.

Myth: When one "buys a lot" in the cemetery they own the land and can do with it what they wish.

Truth: One does not "buy a lot", one purchases burial rights. Much like you would buy mineral rights or water rights, our Catholic cemeteries sell burial rights, which provide a license and Easement for a specific number of burials (traditional or cremation) in a specific location within the cemetery. The Easement also provides for a memorial to be erected in accordance with cemetery regulations and for perpetual care to maintain the lot in perpetuity. By selling burial rights rather than land there is no question of taxable property, we are assured the property will always remain a cemetery and it allows the management to set reasonable rules and regulations to assure proper maintenance of the cemetery can be performed.

Myth: I can sell my lot if I choose not to use it.

Truth: Your lot can be transferred to other individuals through the cemetery office but you cannot sell that which you do not own. If an individual "sells" his/her lot to another person and does not transfer rights through the cemetery office the sale is invalid and the buyer would be out whatever they paid.

Myth: Graves are six feet deep.

Truth: The grave is between four and a half feet and five feet deep, leaving about 18 inches of soil over the concrete vault cover. Six feet under is reserved for the movies.

— Michael W. Hebert is the Manager of St. Francis Cemetery, Waterville, Maine and a member of Maine Catholic Cemetery Committee. Article appeared in Spring, 2011 issue of the St. Francis Cemetery Newsletter. Reproduced with permission.



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 Catholic Cemeteries
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 Lansing, MI 48933-1577

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Liturgy ~ Prayer ~ Comfort ~ Instruction ~ Evangelization

Grave blanket and wreath program

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery † New Calvary Catholic Cemetery
 Our blanket and wreath program is a worry-free way to provide a token remembrance at the grave of your loved one all season long.

Adult grave blanket – \$48.76
 Infant blanket – \$37.10
 Wreath on tripod – \$37.10
 New Calvary Memorial tree ornament – \$21.20

Price includes sales tax, delivery, placement and cleanup. We will begin placing items the week of Nov. 21. Orders must be received by Nov. 30. St. Joseph and New Calvary Catholic Cemeteries are not responsible for damaged or stolen items.

Place the above items on grave(s) of: _____

Ordered by: _____

Telephone: _____

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
 2520 West Willow Street
 Lansing, MI 48917
 517.484.2500

OR

New Calvary Catholic Cemetery
 4142 Flushing Road
 Flint, MI 48504
 810.732.2620