

FUNERAL AND ESTATE PRE-PLANNING

Pre-planning your final estate and burial arrangements will bring a great deal of relief and peace of mind to you and your family. It ensures that your wishes are known and that your survivors will be spared making last-minute decisions under stress and during a period of mourning.

What is pre-planning?

Pre-planning is making your cemetery and funeral arrangements prior to your death (which may include legal document (such as Medical and Durable Power of Attorney; Last Will and Testament; etc.). This allows your wishes to be known, thus eliminating an incredible burden on your loved ones during the very stressful and painful hours after a death. Pre-planning is a profound and concrete sign of your love for surviving family members.

What are the benefits of pre-planning?

The most obvious benefit is that you will relieve your loved ones of the burden of making your cemetery and funeral arrangements at a time of tremendous grief. Your advance planning will give your family the guidance they need to feel comfortable that they are carrying out the decisions you made.

Pre-planning may prevent disagreement among survivors at an emotionally charged time and can assure that your desired wishes are known in advance. The costs of funeral services naturally escalate annually. By purchasing in advance, you are locking in a today's pricing.

At what age should I consider preplanning cemetery and funeral arrangements?

Adults of any age who make their own decisions should have a plan. Like your will, it can be revised throughout your life as needs and circumstances change. In general, the earlier you preplan the more options you have. Your cemetery and funeral options will probably never cost less than they do today.

In our culture, few families are comfortable discussing death and loss. This is just one of those things that does not get easier as time goes by. Now is the best time for you to get your plan in order.

Why should I choose to be buried in a Catholic cemetery?

First and foremost, Catholic cemeteries are a vital part of caring for and burying the bodies of the dead in blessed ground — one of the corporal works of mercy. Since Catholic cemeteries are an extension of the ministry provided in our parish community, they are gathering places of remembrance, consolation and communal support. Choosing a Catholic cemetery as a final resting place is a statement of your belief that, even in death, the people of God await the resurrection of the body and everlasting life. Catholic cemeteries give you a place where your loved ones can come to remember you and all generations past and future.

(SR: <http://www.catholic-cemeteries.org/preplanning.aspx>)