

When arranging for an interment, there can be no failure of service, no breaking down in equipment, no shortage of labor. No matter how severe or disagreeable the weather may be, during the extreme heat of summer or the bitter cold of winter, during rain, sleet, or snow, this work must go on. It is hoped, that this explanation will create a more enlightened understanding that the interment service fee is not just the opening of the grave and that the interment service fee may be recognized by the most critical as fair and in keeping with the operation of an economical and efficient cemetery, and consistent with the giving of the type of service requested by our families.

But what about endowed care?

Endowed Care is to be understood as the care and maintenance of lots necessitated by natural growth and ordinary wear, as well as general cleaning and maintenance of roadways, walks, and mausoleums. But endowed care is not for today. Cemeteries, like people have their own individual life span. Eventually, while not for generations, there will be no more expansion. The contributions made to endowed care will, at that time, help to ensure the reverent care of your loved ones burial site.

Gethsemane for years charged annual care, which was a relatively small yearly fee applied to all graves with burials contained therein. With the number of burials exceeding 25,000, this method is obviously labor intensive and not cost effective. Gethsemane then began using an endowed care system in which a larger one time payment is made, in conjunction with the annual care system. All graves and crypts sold today have endowed care included at the time of sale, but there are a large number of graves in which annual care is years past due and endowed care has never been paid. All previously sold graves, with or without burials must be put into endowed care at the time of need.

A final Thought - Charity

Without a doubt, the most important service we offer at Gethsemane Cemetery is charity. We are called upon to assist the poor or needy and to provide dignity in death even if it was seldom theirs in life. Gethsemane Cemetery will not deny a Catholic person a proper and dignified burial based on their ability to pay. Gethsemane has various options in order to accommodate all persons. We will always provide service to those who have no funds or family to care for them in death.

Gethsemane

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What we are about...

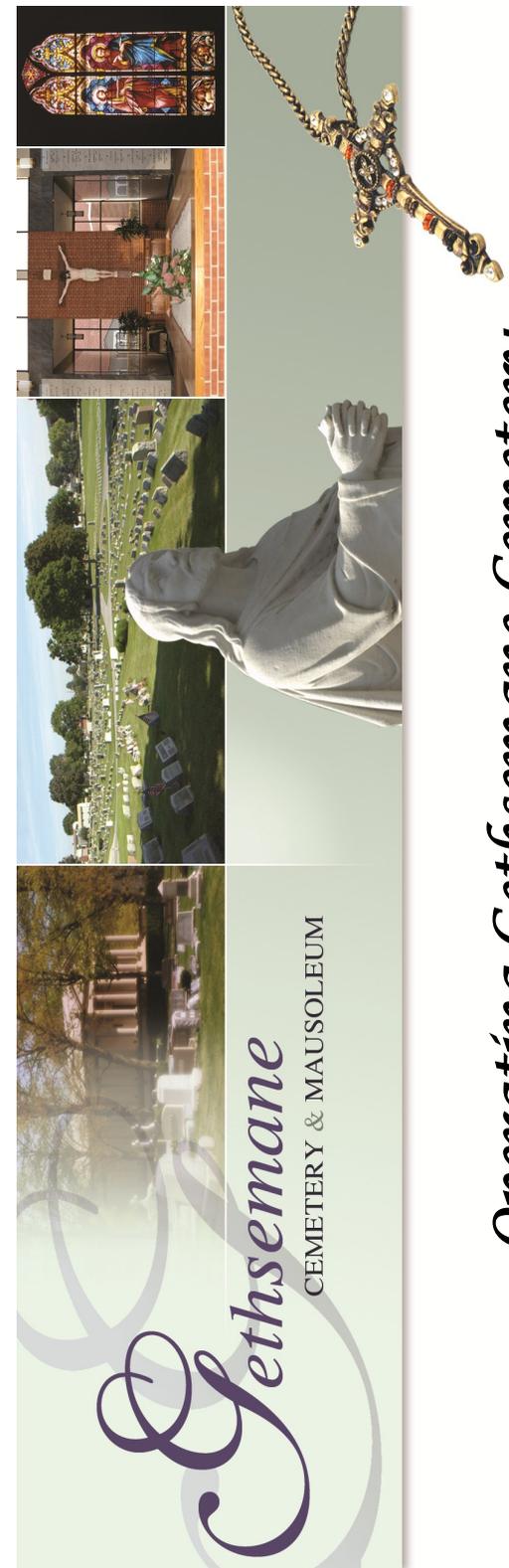
Catholic Cemeteries are places of prayerful remembrance and profound expectation of future glory. They are an important part of our Catholic funeral rites and traditions. For a Catholic, burial in a Catholic cemetery is a final act of faith. An expression of our shared belief, it reflects the spirit of community between the faithful living and deceased, and reaffirms our belief in the final resurrection. It is imperative that we preserve those traditions for future generations.

Our Mission is

To bury the dead, comfort the sorrowful and pray for the living and the dead.

To offer our families choice and flexibility, coupled with unmatched service and care within a well maintained landscape, while preserving the dignity and identity of the Catholic Cemetery.

To deny no person a proper and dignified burial, regardless of their means.



Operating Gethsemane Cemetery

A First Look...

The Christian Faithful are unequivocally confronted by the mystery of life and death when they are faced with the presence of the body of one who has died. Moreover, the body which lies in death naturally recalls the personal story of faith, the loving family bonds, the friendships, and the words and acts of kindness of the human person, which acts and is experienced by others through that body. It is the body whose hands clothed the poor and embraced the sorrowing. (OCF, 411)

The Church, through the centuries, has followed the practice of burial or entombment after the manner of Christ's own burial – out of respect for the human body as a member of Christ and because of faith in the resurrection. At Gethsemane Cemetery we continue this time honored and sacred tradition. We exist to serve the needs of the parish-ees; Gethsemane Cemetery is your Catholic cemetery.

Gethsemane Cemetery is a self-supporting, non-profit, Catholic cemetery. Revenue generated insures excellent service and the continued presence of Catholic cemeteries for generations to come. Any revenues generated beyond the current operational needs of Gethsemane Cemetery go toward the further beautification of the cemetery, continued expansion and its future needs and care.

People often ask “How much does it cost?” or “Wasn't that included when my parents bought the graves?” In order to provide for a dignified and respectful resting place for our departed brothers and sisters we must carefully maintain a delicate balance between our ministry and money. The religious and sacred nature of our Catholic cemeteries requires realistic and far-sighted financial management.

Cemetery pricing for products and services cannot discount or even compromise the lasting communal presence of the cemetery nor can it be oppressive to the faithful seeking a dignified place of rest.

Expenses

Expenses are a concern for any operation and cemeteries are no different. So what sort of expenses do we as a cemetery have? This is by no means an exhaustive list but it does touch on the most significant items.

Ministry Services

Chapels, masses and other events and public occasions; Religious shrines, Stations of the Cross and church goods; Pre need and at need Family Service Counselors; and Books, literature and pamphlets.

Office Services

Office staff and training; Customer service and assistance; Burial arrangements, follow ups and pre arrangements; Genealogy requests; Work orders, maintenance requests and inquiries; Accounts receivable, accounts payable and data entry; Maintenance of paper and electronic burial records of all those interred (currently almost 30,000) as well as the necessary forms, documentation and contacts that are associated with them. This has been ongoing since 1896 and will continue into the unforeseeable future; Updating and maintenance of computer systems and website; Disaster recovery and data backup.

Cemetery Maintenance and Care

Salaries of supervisors, maintenance personnel and seasonal employees; Care and maintenance of turf, including grass cutting, trimming around every memorial and headstone, application of weed control products and fertilizers, turf pest control products and aerating and over seeding as necessary, all of which currently applies to over 55 acres and we are expanding; Leveling and care of graves and memorials; Trimming, maintenance and care of almost 200 trees and counting on an ongoing basis; Replacement and installation of new trees; Installation, care and attention to flowers, shrub beds and plantings; Inspection, maintenance and repair of buildings, shrines, features, roads and a complex system of water and drainage lines; Leaf and debris cleanup both in the fall and on an ongoing basis; Snow removal from all public access areas as well as from the grass area for all interments; Specialized equipment for year round in ground burials, grading and excavation; Specialized equipment for above ground entombments; Equipment for mowing and trimming acres of turf with limited access and numerous obstacles; Equipment for snow removal; and new construction, expansion, grading and excavation, utilities and roads.

General Overhead and Expenses

Water and Sewer; Gasoline and Oil; Electric and natural gas; Rubbish removal and disposal; Approved disposal of waste oil, fuel, tires and other regulated items; Repair and replacement of equipment; Insurance on all buildings and equipment; General liability insurance; Employee benefits, workers compensation insurance, training and personal protective equipment; Marketing, advertising, and public relations; Communication systems and office equipment; Legal counsel; and Accounting and oversight.

So, how do we generate the necessary revenue to meet our expenses.?

Sale of Grave, Crypt and Niche space

This makes up a large and very important source of revenue. Much of this revenue will be used, however, to replace inventory as it is sold.

Fees and Services

Fees and services for interments, entombments, inscriptions, foundations and memorial resetting and cleaning are additional vital sources of revenue. This revenue covers the cost of materials, equipment, supplies and labor for these services and helps fund the overall daily operation and care of the cemetery.

Sale of Memorials, Burial Vaults and Various Products

This includes memorials and burial vaults as well as cameos, vases and emblems. The revenue generated from the sale of these items include our cost, the cost of installation and setting and helps fund the overall daily operation and care of the cemetery.

What is the interment or entombment service fee?

To the average individual, the interment service fee is merely the work of opening the interment space or crypt, or just digging a grave, whereas that is only one of a great number operations that go on behind the scenes, which are included in the interment or entombment service fee at Gethsemane Cemetery.

The interment service fee includes but is not limited to, consultation with the family and funeral director; verification of ownership, special instructions and location of the lot; preparation and filing of necessary forms, databases, maps, records, authorizations and permits; coordinating with those providing services (vault companies, florists, military personnel, churches); locating and preparing the space; delivery and setup of all equipment and materials for services; scheduling, direction, assistance and coordination of the service at the cemetery; removal of all equipment and material; closing of the grave; seeding, sodding or topdressing and unlimited attention until the grounds are back to original condition; disposal of flowers three days after the service and attention to any other details that may be necessary.