

# OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CEMETERY



## NORMS REGARDING CREMATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

The traditional teaching of the Catholic Church with regard to the proper burial of the sacred remains of the deceased and the resurrection of the body on the last day requires periodic catechesis. This is especially so today with the ever-increasing number of Catholics choosing cremation.

While interment of the body remains the preference of the Church, after the manner of the burial of the Lord Jesus, the use of cremation is allowed according to the norms that promote the faith and practice of the Church with regard to the burial of a Christian. For the most part, these are already in force according to current liturgical law and the liturgical books. Thus, respect for the remains of the cremated body, as befits the dignity of a baptized person, is ensured.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. What is the Catholic Church's position on cremation?**

Although the Church prefers burial of the body, cremation is acceptable. When cremation is chosen, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The remains must be placed in a suitable container.
- The remains must be buried in a sacred place (cemetery or columbarium).
- The burial must take place as soon as possible.
- The ashes cannot be scattered or stored in one's home.
- The ashes cannot be mixed with the ashes of another deceased person.

### **2. What does OLA Cemetery offer for burials?**

OLA Cemetery has designated a section exclusively for the in-ground burial of cremated remains. Plots are available for purchase. There are no full-body graves available.

### **3. Who can purchase a burial plot in OLA Cemetery?**

Any OLA parishioner may purchase burial rights to a plot in OLA Cemetery's cremated-remains section.

### **4. Can a non-Catholic be buried at OLA?**

The burial of a non-Catholic relative of an OLA parishioner is permitted.

### **5. What do I purchase when I purchase a burial plot?**

You are acquiring the *right to be buried* in the plot, not ownership of the land. Upon full payment, the buyer is given a Burial Privileges Certificate, which is proof of rights to burial in the specified plot.

### **6. What is the purchase price for a plot?**

A plot costs \$3,000. A headstone is included in the price. A portion of the purchase price (20%) goes toward the Endowed Care Fund.

### **7. What is Endowed Care?**

Endowed Care (formerly called Perpetual Care) is a sum of money put aside to ensure that the parish can provide for the care and maintenance of the cemetery grounds in perpetuity.

### **8. How many burials are allowed in one plot?**

The plot can accommodate up to 4 burials of cremated remains.

### **9. I am interested in learning more. How do I get more information?**

You may contact Christine Gaeto at the OLA parish office (610-688-1178) or at [cgaeto@olastrafford.org](mailto:cgaeto@olastrafford.org) for more information.

