



# BRIDGE

*for the*

# JOURNEY

NOVEMBER 2017 VOLUME I, ISSUE VI

*A Living Waters Columbarium Publication*



Our Christian Catholic Tradition dedicates the month of November to the memory of all the saints and all the souls that have ever lived in the course of human history. It is during this month that we remember in a very special way our beloved dead through prayer and ritual, and visiting the columbarium is one of the ways we can spend time with our loved ones who are entombed and memorialized within.

A vital flow of life continues to exist between ourselves and our loved ones even beyond death, as love, presence and communication transcend death. We continue to nurture our relationships with the deceased, confident that they, now fully redeemed, enter into that relationship changed and transformed. What a wonderful time to address any 'unfinished business' we have had with them, and rejoice in a new level of loving interaction through which the perspective is wider and the distance between us is less! In doing so, we begin to let go of the earthly bond we had with our loved one, and our relationship evolves from one of history to one of mystery, in which the imperishable nature of our loved one's soul continues to burn brightly in the presence of God.



- Monique Gauthier

# Living Waters Columbarium

- *vehicle of evangelization*

When pondering the meaning of the 'new evangelization', we may not immediately think of our earthly death as a vehicle by which to witness to our relationship with Jesus. Yet our ability to embrace our mortality and face death through the lens of our Christian Catholic values is one of the most significant ways we can proclaim the 'Good News'. Living Waters Columbarium offers a reverent alternative rooted in the traditions of our Catholic faith. Come discover the unique characteristics and ministry of our columbarium - an integral part of our parish mission, shaped and fashioned through the charisms of our beloved patroness, St. Gianna Beretta Molla. The first of its kind in Canada, our columbarium ensures entombment in a living, praying community of faith, where the beloved dead are perpetually remembered in prayer. Choosing the columbarium as one's final resting place gives expression to the communal nature of our faith. Both in life and death, we are members of the Body of Christ, and being entombed beneath the life-giving waters of baptism is a sign of our participation in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

## Testimonials

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When my father, Danilo L. Vicente, passed away last July, our family was filled with grief and at the same time overwhelmed with all the planning and decision making for his funeral services and entombment. For a time I had hoped he could stay home and not be entombed at all so that he could always be "with us". It was after Father Geoffrey introduced to us Living Waters Columbarium and enlightened me about the spiritual and emotional significance of entombment that I found peace and contentment in letting go and in full submission of my father to God. The first time we visited the columbarium, I knew this

was where he would want to be. My father was a religious man; he was a member of many church organizations and sang fervently in church choirs. He was a dedicated and passionate servant of God and His church. I am now at peace knowing that we found

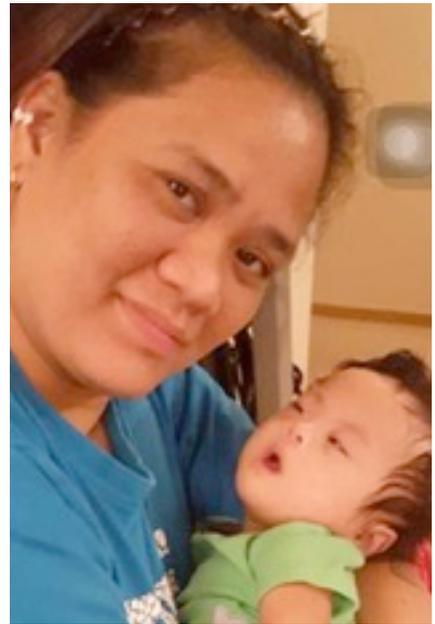
a perfect place for my father – this is the least we can do for his selfless love and the sacrifices he has made for our family. A forever grateful daughter...

Jennifer Licardo  
*Parishioner of St. Mary's Cathedral*



My 8 month old baby, Josiah Jaycob, passed away on June 26, 2016. It was extremely hard for us, as he left us too soon. His death truly broke my heart. After his body was cremated, my husband and I initially decided to keep Jaycob's remains at home. We wanted to be with him all the time, and found it difficult to separate ourselves from him. Our pastor told us that our baby needed to be in his final resting place, and he shared information with us about St. Gianna's Church and the columbarium.

As soon as I entered the columbarium, I felt a sense of comfort and a 'lightening' of my pain. I instantly felt that this place is sacred, safe and peaceful. It means so much to us knowing that we can visit Jaycob every time we come to church. We are so grateful for this wonderful place! As we celebrated of the Feast of All Souls on November 2, we remembered Jaycob, along with our other beloved deceased, and we offered prayers for the peace of their souls.



Josie Bartolome Acaya  
Parishioner of St. Mary's Cathedral

My name is Fran Cropley and Len Cropley was my late beloved husband. Len was also father extraordinaire to Patricia. I kept Len's cremated remains at home for a year, and when the columbarium was complete, I delivered the urn to Monique. Len is safe in the hands of the Lord. The atmosphere is very peaceful,



and when I visit, he knows I am with him. It is a most unique place and someday I will join my sweet prince.

Yours in Christ,  
Fran Cropley



Scan the QR code to view more testimonials on our website.

## Recently Entombed in Living Waters Columbarium...



**Andy Lussier**  
Feb. 23, 1935 - Oct. 22, 2017



**Danilo L. Vicente**  
April 27, 1950 - July 28, 2017



**Bernard A. Lopez**  
March 12, 1961 - Oct. 18, 2017

# Remembrance Wall in Memory of Fallen Soldiers

*- lest we forget*

The Remembrance Wall in Living Waters Columbarium commemorates Canadian soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of our freedom. The wall, which was unveiled within our Eucharistic liturgy (Mass for Peace) on November 11, 2016, bears the names of fallen soldiers, along with their date of birth and death. This is a wonderful opportunity for families who have lost a family member through war to create a place of commemoration and prayer

for their beloved deceased.

## How to Order:

Inscriptions can be ordered by contacting Monique Gauthier at Living Waters Columbarium. The cost per inscription is \$1000 when ordered on or before November 7, 2017 (regular price after Nov. 7 is \$1200). Orders placed by this date also ensure that the inscription will be on the memorial wall in time for Remembrance Day.



## Mass for Peace:

November 11 at 10:30 a.m.  
at St. Gianna's Church

# First Annual Sowing Seeds Award Dinner

*- Sunday, November 19, at St. Gianna's Church*

The Sowing Seeds Award is made possible through the Grain of Wheat Legacy Fund. The fund serves as a perpetual memorial for the beloved dead, by supporting groups/organizations that endeavour to transform the world. Each year, a portion of the fund is designated for the Sowing Seeds Award, a monetary gift to support the continued initiatives of an organization selected through a nomination process.

## Sowing Seeds Award Dinner

**Date:** November 19

**Time:** Dinner 5:30 PM

**Place:** St. Gianna's Church

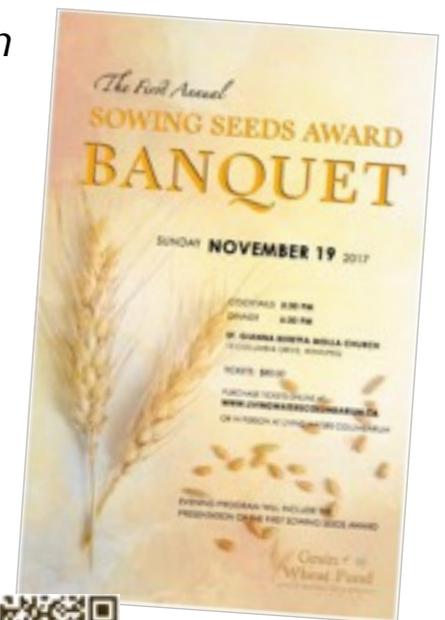
**Tickets:** \$80.00

(donation receipt issued for \$25)

Tickets may be purchased in person at Living Waters Columbarium or online at

[www.livingwaterswpg.ca](http://www.livingwaterswpg.ca)

**Only a few tickets remaining!**



Scan the QR code to view our Grain of Wheat video on our website.



*An Evening at*

## LIVING WATERS COLUMBARIUM

*Join Us for an Informative Evening that will include two presentations and a tour of Living Waters Columbarium!*

Location: St. Gianna's Church \* 15 Columbia Drive, Winnipeg

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017 \* 7:00 P.M.**



### ***Claiming the Dignity of Cremated Remains***

At a time when the secular world offers 'twenty seven things to do with cremated remains', we can easily be overwhelmed by the many different options presented to us when a loved one dies. Presenter Monique Gauthier (Living Waters Columbarium) will explore the teachings of the Church on the treatment of cremated remains through the Instruction released by Pope Francis in August 2016.



### ***The Talk of a Lifetime***

Kevin Sweryd (Bardal Funeral Home) will delve into the importance of pre-planning one's final arrangements, and explore the critical questions to consider when making those arrangements. Kevin will explain the role of the Funeral Director in supporting clients in their pre-need and at-need decision making.

[www.livingwaterswpg.ca](http://www.livingwaterswpg.ca)

**Receive 10% OFF** the regular price of niches! **Receive 20% OFF** memorial doors and memorial inscriptions during the month of November with the presentation of this ad!

\* Appointment must be scheduled prior to November 30, 2017.

# Finding Our Loved Ones After Death

- by Ron Rolheiser

***“Why do you seek the living among the dead?”***

Curious words? Perhaps. They contain, though, a secret. Those words were spoken by an angel to Mary Magdalene on Easter morning. She had come to the tomb where Jesus had been buried, hoping to anoint his dead body with spices, when an angel told her that it is futile to look for the living among the dead. That rather cryptic statement speaks not only of Christ’s resurrection but reveals as well a deep secret, one central to understanding the communion of saints: How do we remain in contact, in love, in communication, and in a real community of life with our loved ones after they have died? How do we find our loved ones after death separates them from us?

The angel of the resurrection tells us how: By seeking for them among the living, not among the dead. We do not find our loved ones in their graves, good though it is to visit graves. Just as Mary Magdalene did not find Jesus in his tomb, we too will not find our loved ones there. Where will we find them? In the words of John Shea, “we will meet the ones we can no longer touch by placing ourselves in situations where their spirits can flourish.” Our loved



ones live where they have always lived and it is there that we will find them. What does that mean?

Simply put, we find our deceased loved ones by entering into life, in terms of love and faith, in the way that was most distinctive to them. We contact them and connect ourselves to them when, in our own lives, we shape the infinite richness of God’s life and compassion in the way that they did, when we pour ourselves into life as they did. Let me try to illustrate with an example:

My own parents died more than twenty years ago. Sometimes I visit their graves. That is a good experience. I feel some grounding in it, some deep rooting that helps centre me. But this is not my real contact with

them. No. I meet them among the living. I meet them when, in my own life, I live what was most distinctively them in terms of their love, faith, and virtue. Thus, for example, my mother was a very selfless woman, generous to a fault, always giving everything away. When I am generous and give of myself as she did, I meet my mother. She becomes very present, very alive. At those times, I do not experience her as dead at all. It is the same with my father. His great quality was his moral integrity, a unique stubbornness in faith, an uncompromising insistence that one should not give in to even the smallest moral compromise. At those times when I can be his son in these things, when I can, in fact, face

down little and big temptations in my life, my father is present, alive, connected, in a vital community of life with me.

Less happily, but just as true, the reverse is also the case: At those times when I am selfish, when I cannot give myself over in sacrifice, my mother is more absent, more dead to me. It is the same with my father: When I compromise morally, be the issue ever so small, my father is not so alive to me. He recedes like the tide. It is not very helpful to visit their graves at those times; in fact, then in my actual life, I am living among the dead. If I cry out to them in prayer at those times the only response I get is from the angel of resurrection who tells me gently, what was told Mary Magdalene, why do you search for the living among the dead?

Every good person shapes the infinite life and compassion of God in his or her unique way. When that person dies, we must seek him or her among the living. Thus, if we want a loved one's presence we must seek him or her out in what was most distinctively him or her, in terms of love, faith, and virtue.

And so when we search for our loved ones after death we must say this: Her great gift was hospitality, well then I will meet her when I am hospitable; his great gift was a passion for justice, well then I will meet him when I am involved in the quest for justice; she had a great zest for life, for meals with her family and friends, for laughter in the house, well then I will meet her when I have a zest for life, when I am celebrating at a table with family and friends.

Our loved ones are not dead to us. One of the central tenets of our faith is that we believe in the communion of saints and in life everlasting. It is everlasting. Our loved ones are alive, doing what they've always done, and they are waiting for us, filled glass in hand, at the centre of the circle of celebration.



*by Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.*

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## Visit the columbarium's new website



New videos, family testimonials, a beautiful page for each beloved deceased, vigil candle and floral orders at the click of a button... Our new website is like no other! Visit [www.livingwaterswpg.ca](http://www.livingwaterswpg.ca) today and experience what it means to honour life in the Catholic Tradition!

Trusted Since 1894

**BARDAL** 

**FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM**

CARING FOR YOU IN YOUR COMMUNITY  
NOW WITH THREE LOCATIONS  
Funeral Home 843 Sherbrook Street  
Arrangement Centres  
1510 St. Mary's Road & 3393 Portage Avenue

# Honouring Life in the CATHOLIC Tradition

## Our New Visiting Hours

We are pleased to offer extended weekday visiting hours in the columbarium that now include Thursday evenings. Please see our complete visiting hours below.

### Daytime

Monday to Friday

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\*Holidays not applicable

### Evening

Tuesday & Thursday

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

### Weekends

Saturday 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm.



*Contact Monique Gauthier  
Director of Sales, Marketing and Promotion*

## Living Waters Columbarium

located within St. Gianna's Church

15 Columbia Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3Y 0R5

Phone: 204-488-3977 E-mail: [livingwaters@mymts.net](mailto:livingwaters@mymts.net) Website: [www.livingwaterswpg.ca](http://www.livingwaterswpg.ca)



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