



BRIDGE

for the

JOURNEY

DECEMBER 2017 VOLUME I, ISSUE VII

A Living Waters Columbarium Publication

First Annual Sowing Seeds Award Banquet Honours Villa Rosa

On November 19, 2017, guests gathered at St. Gianna Beretta Molla Church for the Sowing Seeds Award Banquet to honour and celebrate the work



Executive Director Kathy Strachan accepts the Sowing Seeds award on behalf of Villa Rosa

of Villa Rosa, this year's award recipient. The award was accompanied by a cheque in the amount of \$5,000. The Sowing Seeds Award is made possible through the Grain of Wheat Legacy Fund, established by Living Waters Columbarium in April 2017, in memory of the beloved deceased entombed and memorialized within and beyond the columbarium. The Sowing Seeds Award recognizes a group or organization for its commitment to transform the world by choosing unconditional love and sacrifice.

Each year, families of the deceased enrolled in the Grain of Wheat Legacy Fund are invited to consider the particular passions and efforts of their deceased loved ones, and to nominate an organization or group that endeavours to transform the world through work that reflects those very passions. In this way, the deceased continue to be present, in mystery, through the transformative work they so passionately embraced during their earthly pilgrimage.

The work of Villa Rosa resonates with the lifelong efforts of several deceased individuals enrolled in the Grain of Wheat Legacy Fund. These individuals nurtured and supported the gift of life made present through pregnant mothers and their babies, and experienced first-hand God's great love through...

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First Annual Sowing Seeds Award Banquet... (continued from cover)

...the gift of newborn babies.

Founded in 1898 by the Misericordia Sisters, Villa Rosa is a prenatal and postnatal residence in Winnipeg, where young women can find shelter in their pregnancies. Villa Rosa serves some of the most vulnerable women in Manitoba, most of whom are single pregnant teenagers. By offering a

safe place to live, nutritious meals, individual counselling, life skills, education, parenting programs and most importantly, unconditional love, Villa Rosa staff and volunteers journey with single mothers and their babies to provide a truly transformative experience: a life-giving alternative to abortion, the gift of hope and a strong foundation for

future growth and development.

Living Waters Columbarium and the Grain of Wheat Legacy express gratitude to the donors, sponsors and participants who made this inaugural award banquet a meaningful and extraordinary celebration.

To learn more about the Grain of Wheat Legacy Fund and the Sowing Seeds Award, visit www.livingwaterswpg.ca.



Recently Memorialized in Living Waters Columbarium...



Alfonso Cruzada Fernando
Aug. 2 , 1924 - Aug. 17, 2001
EVERGREEN MEMORIAL GARDEN,
PASIG CITY, PHL



Michael McCallan
May 30 , 1953 - Oct. 17, 1977
ENGLEHART CEMETERY, ON



William McCallan
April 18, 1941 - Dec. 2, 2000
ENGLEHART CEMETERY, ON



Robert O'Keefe
July 13, 1924 - Jan. 9, 1999
ST, PETER'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY, ON



Sean O'Keefe
Dec. 14, 1965 - May. 7, 1986
ST, PETER'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY, ON

Testimonial

My name is Roland Lampertz and my parents, Rose & René Lampertz, are memorialized in Living Waters Columbarium. My mom was my spiritual inspiration in my early years, because she had an amazing faith and she was very devoted to prayer, especially praying for others. In a conversation I had with her before she died this summer, I mentioned the columbarium in our church and how those entombed or memorialized there are included in prayer intentions every month and at other special celebrations in the church, like the Feast of All Souls and Blue



Christmas. The more I talked about it, the more she loved it, and the more emotional she became. I knew then that I needed to include her and Dad in this special place. Since my dad had passed away three years before and their final resting place had already been chosen, the memorial door was the perfect choice. I'm so glad that

my parents are now part of the Living Waters community and that mom's wish to be included in perpetual prayer has been realized here at St. Gianna's. I can also easily go to the columbarium to visit and pray, and I appreciate the ability to have flowers adorn the memorial door on special occasions. Being memorialized in the columbarium is truly a blessing for my parents and me.



Roland Lampertz

Blue Christmas Celebration

The loss of a loved one often brings feelings of sadness, loss and emptiness at Christmas. Since love does not end with death, Christmas may result in a renewed sense of personal grief - a feeling of loss unlike that experienced in the routine of daily living. Allowing faith to renew one's resources for living is critical during this joyful, yet painful, time of the year.



The families and friends of the deceased entrusted to the care of Living Waters Columbarium are invited to participate in our Blue Christmas liturgy.

Blue Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

Light reception will follow.

Solemn Evening Prayer celebrating the Feast of Holy Innocents

The Feast of the Holy Innocents reminds us of the preciousness of children - those lost through miscarriage, stillbirth and abortion, and those whose innocent little lives continue to be in jeopardy today. During the Christmas season, we touch and enter God's presence through the vulnerability of a tiny child, in the pain and the rejoicing in the act of giving birth. Through the gift of Jesus, we are assured that the tiniest and most vulnerable lives are never lost.

The families and friends of the infants who are entombed or memorialized in Living Waters Columbarium are invited to participate in a Solemn Evening Prayer on Sunday, December 27th.



At the conclusion of the prayer service, Living Waters Columbarium will be open for families wishing to visit their beloved infants who are entombed or memorialized within the columbarium.

Solemn Evening Prayer: Feast of Holy Innocents

December 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

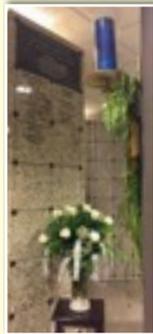
Light reception will follow.

Memorial Wall Celebrates the Briefest Lives

Each year in North America, approximately one million parents lose a child through miscarriage or still birth. In many cases, there is no burial or special place where the child is remembered, and the families are left to deal with a grief that is often misunderstood and disenfranchised in our society. The memorial wall for the unborn at Living Waters Columbarium enables families who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion to create a perpetual place of prayer and remembrance for their child.

The memorial wall is open to all families who have ever experienced the pain of losing an unborn child, as well as to those who wish to dedicate a memorial for relatives or friends having experienced such a loss. Each year, the infants whose names are

inscribed on the wall are remembered in a special way during the celebration of the Feast of Holy Innocents. Each inscription bears the first and last name of the child, or 'Baby' and last name, along with the date of birth/death.

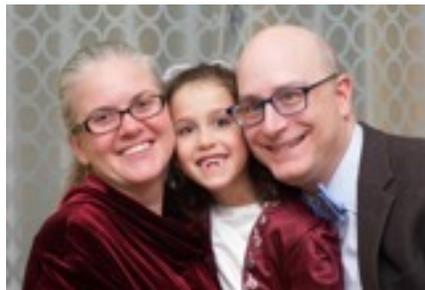


During the month of December, receive 20% off the price of a memorial inscription for the unborn. Orders placed **before December 19th** ensure that the infant's name will be engraved on the memorial wall in time for the celebration of the Feast of Holy Innocents.

Visit www.livingwaterswpg.ca to learn more or contact Monique at 204-488-3977.

Testimonial

Our beautiful daughter, Serafina, was born in 2009, not long after we moved to Manitoba from Montreal. In 2011, we found out that we were expecting our second child. I received a call from Antonella in late November, when she was visiting her family in Ontario with Serafina, that she had lost the baby. I felt terrible, and as I was not with my family, I was unable to support Antonella through the terrible event in the ways that I wanted to. We told family members and friends (some of whom did not yet know that we were even expecting) that



we had lost a child. They helped as they could.

When we heard about a Memorial Wall for the Unborn, a place to commemorate a child lost through miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion, we wanted to memorialize our baby, Celeste Flavia. As Catholics, we believe

that personhood begins at conception; it was fitting, then, to remember our child in this way. It is such a consolation to have a tangible "place" to remember her, to feel connected to her, here on earth. Memorializing our lost baby, Celeste Flavia, is a way to announce to the world, and to affirm, that we have not one child but two, one here with us, and one we will meet again in heaven.

- *Nicholas Greco*

Claiming the Dignity of Cremated Remains and the Talk of a Lifetime

- sobering topics bring peace and comfort

Participants gathered at St. Gianna's Church November 9th to journey through topics that many find intimidating: the dignity of cremated remains and the 'talk' that each and every one of us should have with a loved one about death. Presenters Monique Gauthier (Living Waters Columbarium) and Kevin Sweryd (Bardal Funeral Home) delved into the importance of having conversations with loved ones around the topic of death, and the teachings of the Catholic Church on the treatment of cremated remains. The presentations were followed by a tour of the columbarium and an opportunity for participants to ask questions on death-related matters. The great discovery of the evening is the peace and comfort made possible when these topics are demystified and discussed freely.



Testimonials

"The presentation was excellent and so informative. The ideal way for a Catholic funeral was most informative and unfortunately not known to all Catholics. I was glad to hear that the cremated remains of the deceased should be treated with the same as the body, and also that deceased buried in the columbarium are perpetually remembered in prayer .

Kevin gave so much detailed information that I never thought about. The planning booklet that he gave us is such a great idea. I'm really glad I came."

- Anita

"We found the presentation on Nov. 9 very useful, in that it emphasized how the Catholic tradition of celebrating a Mass of the Resurrection helps to provide closure upon the loss of a loved one. It was also helpful to know how the Catholic church accepts

cremation as a viable alternative to a casket funeral.

The second half of the presentation was most helpful in reminding us of the benefits of discussing funeral arrangements with family members, so that the wishes of the deceased will be honoured and it will also minimize stress on the survivors."

- Will and Mavis

"Personally, I really appreciated the insight and background (the what, how and why) into cremated remains, and how it relates to our Catholic faith. The delivery was so clear and the material as presented flowed in such a logical manner. I feel much more confident about my own personal wishes when it comes to what happens to me when I die, and what I will discuss with my own family and loved ones. Being prepared for the eventuality is quite

comforting.

The guide Kevin shared was very helpful and again reinforced the important message about the benefits of having those important conversations sooner than later, far outweighs the discomfort one might have in doing so. I will be having them with my wife and mother-in-law for sure.

The evening once again highlighted how fortunate and blessed we are at St. Gianna's to have such a ministry."

- Rob



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.

December 24

2:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

December 25

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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.



Knights of Columbus

St. Gianna Council #14199

Honouring Life in the
CATHOLIC
Tradition



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