



BRIDGE

for the

JOURNEY

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A Living Waters Columbarium Publication



The start of a new year is often a time of reflection and planning - an opportunity to unfold new initiatives and tend to matters that we might have put off in the past. For many people, pre-planning for the time of death is one of those things that often gets sent to the bottom of the 'to do' list. Those who have experienced the death of a loved one know how feelings of loss, sadness and stress can impact the decisions that need to be made at the time of death. During this time of grief, unexpected pressures can often result in hasty decisions which may be contrary to the faith and wishes of the deceased.



While contemplating one's death can be a sobering topic, many people are discovering the great sense of peace in pre-planning their funeral arrangements, including the final resting place for their mortal remains. In addition to ensuring that their wishes will be carried out, those who engage in pre-planning ultimately discover that time spent on this matter today will someday become one of the greatest gifts they can make to their family.

In this issue of Bridge for the Journey, we explore the topic of cemetery planning. Discover the unique attributes of Living Waters Columbarium, and begin to unfold the extraordinary gift of what it means to *Honour Life in the Catholic Tradition.*

Monique Gauthier



Why Choose a Catholic Cemetery?

We tend to think of cemeteries as a place for the dead, and though that is definitely true, cemeteries are very much a place for the living. Catholic cemeteries are the greatest sign of our belief in the resurrection. They are places of remembrance, prayer, and above all, places of life - a tangible sign of our Eternal life in God.

Why Choose Living Waters Columbarium?

The first of its kind in Canada, Living Waters Columbarium is fully integrated into a living, praying community of faith. The deceased are entombed and memorialized beneath the life-giving waters of baptism. It is in the baptismal font above the columbarium that Christians are inaugurated into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, as they are welcomed into the Christian community within their earthly pilgrimage. It is beneath these same life-giving waters of baptism that the beloved deceased are entombed and memorialized, as they continue their pilgrimage in Eternity.

A Place of Prayer and Remembrance



Remembering the beloved dead and supporting those who grieve characterize the unique ministry flowing through the columbarium. The beloved dead are held in the prayers of the faith community of St. Gianna Beretta Molla Church throughout the year. On the first Sunday of the month, the deceased are remembered within the prayers of intercession. The beloved dead are also remembered through the liturgical celebrations on the Feast of All Souls, Blue Christmas and the Feast of Holy Innocents, as well as through our Christmas and Easter memorials.

Families and friends of the deceased are always invited and welcome to spend time visiting in the columbarium. Within the columbarium, our seven-day vigil candles burn brightly to commemorate those who have gone before us, and floral arrangements and niche door flowers mark significant dates including birthdays, anniversaries and 40th day anniversaries. Our beloved dead are perpetually present to us in mystery.



A Place of Evangelization

As Christians in the Catholic tradition, we are called to proclaim our faith, and to share the good news of Christ and the resurrection with our brothers and sisters. Living Waters Columbarium provides all those who visit an opportunity to encounter Jesus through the reality of life and death.





A Place of Community

The baptismal font at the heart of the columbarium serves as a perpetual reminder of the great communion to which we all belong in both our earthly and eternal pilgrimage. The columbarium serves as a bridge that brings the community of the living and the community of the deceased into one.



A Place for Everyone

The columbarium serves as a place of remembrance for many people - the unborn whose feet never touched the earth, the adolescents and young adults whose lives ended prematurely through tragedy or illness, and those who lived well into their elderly years. Each and every one of them, uniquely shaped and fashioned in God's image, continues to reveal the gift of God's love.

A Multitude of Entombment and Memorial Opportunities

Living Waters Columbarium offers a variety of entombment and memorialization opportunities. Choose from the following:

- single entombment niches
- double entombment niches
- family entombment spaces **NEW**
- family chapels (one remaining)
- memorial doors for deceased interred elsewhere
- memorial inscriptions for infants lost through miscarriage, abortion and stillbirth
- memorial inscriptions for fallen soldiers



Financially Accessible to All

A variety of price points and payment options are available, including our month to month rental opportunities for temporary entombment.

We will all die one day. That is one of the few things we can be sure of. But will we die well? That is less certain. Dying well means dying for others, making our lives fruitful for those we leave behind. The big question, therefore, is not 'What can I still do in the years I have left to live?' but 'How can I prepare myself for my death so that my life can continue to bear fruit in the generations that will follow me?' Jesus died well because through dying he sent his Spirit of Love to his friends, who with that Holy Spirit could live better lives. Can we also send the Spirit of Love to our friends when we leave them? Or are we too worried about what we can still do? Dying can become our greatest gift if we prepare ourselves to die well.

- Henry Nouwen

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.



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