

All Saints
25 School Street
Somerville, CT 06072
860-749-8625



The Saint Francis Community
sewing the parishes of:



Saint Edwards
55 High Street
Stafford Spring, CT 06076
860-684-2705

June 14, 2016

Dear Parishioners:

Catholic Cemeteries have been part of the life of the Church since the days of the Apostles and the catacombs in Rome. One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to bury the dead which was a valued Christian task in the days when burial was not such a 'formal' task as we are accustomed to in our day and age.

Our own parish cemetery, St. Edward Cemetery, has been in existence for over 100 years and the number buried there are numerous. It is **sacred ground, holy ground**, where we bring our beloved to await the resurrection with Jesus. As the prayer in the committal ritual says: ***"Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies."***

Therefore, in our desire to keep our cemetery a place of reverence and respect for our deceased, a set of guidelines has now been put into effect. **These guidelines are now available at the doors of both our yoked churches.** If you have a loved one buried in St. Edward Cemetery, it would be to your advantage to pick up a copy and read through it.

I would just like to point out a few highlights:

1: Section IV paragraph 4-A (page 5) makes clear that the purchase of a plot or niche in St. Edward Cemetery does not transfer ownership of the land or niche to the purchaser. The lot or niche owner is only 'buying' the privilege of burial in that lot or niche

2: Section IV paragraph 4-E (page 6) & Section IX paragraph 9-G (page 15) makes clear that the erection of shrines, gardens or shrubs around the monument is not allowed. Any such items need to be removed by July 1, 2016 or they will, as time permits, be removed by the cemetery staff.

3: Section XI paragraph 11-A (page 17) is a reminder that dog walking in our Cemetery is no longer allowed. Too many dog walkers have been allowing their pets to do their 'business' on the graves of someone else's beloved deceased. This must stop.

I also call your attention to the brochure for the new Columbaria being erected in the Cemetery. This is a wonderful opportunity to make some necessary pre-need arrangements. Please call the office to make arrangements.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Roland C. Cloutier, Pastor