

HONORING THE BODY

Catholics believe in the resurrection of the body, which means that those who follow the way of Jesus shall be forever in heaven, body and soul, in the presence of God. The church earnestly desires burial of the body since it expresses most fully our faith in the resurrection of the body and its inherent dignity and value.

The norm of the Church is for the body to be present at the funeral rites. If expense is a great concern, funeral directors can offer options so that the body can be present for the rites, with cremation occurring after the funeral. For serious reasons, such as the expense of transporting the body a long distance for a funeral, it is permissible for the cremated remains to be present in church for the funeral. The ritual prayers are slightly different and references to honoring the body and baptism are omitted, as is the placing of the funeral pall.

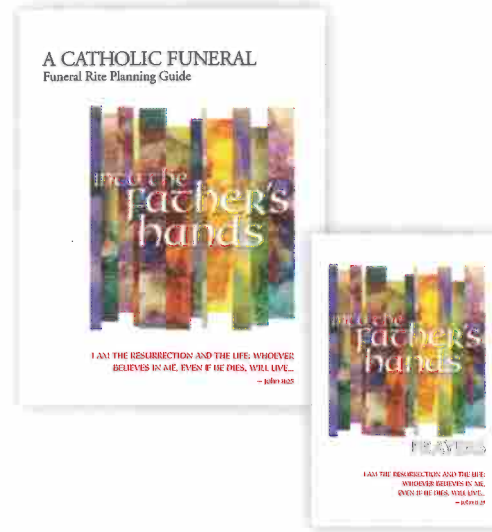
In all cases of cremation, the cremated remains must be interred immediately at a committal service, just as with a full-body funeral. Scattering cremated remains is considered irreverent and disrespectful to the body. For the same reason, cremated remains are not to be kept at home but should be placed in a columbarium or buried in a cemetery.

THE REVERENT AND HOLY PLACE OF WAITING

Committal of the body or the cremated remains in a cemetery where visitation can take place is important. Our Catholic faith teaches that we will rise in our bodies and that a place be reverently provided for the body to await the resurrection. Those who mourn as well as those who remember them benefit from having a place to come and grieve.

FUNERAL RESOURCES

For more information on this brochure and other available resources including the Funeral Rite Planning Guide and Prayer Booklet, please call 888.800.8352 or 402.551.9003 ext 1304.



Into the Father's Hands is produced by the Family Life Office in cooperation with the Offices of Divine Worship; Chancery; Catholic Cemeteries; and in consultation with the priests of the Archdiocese of Omaha.



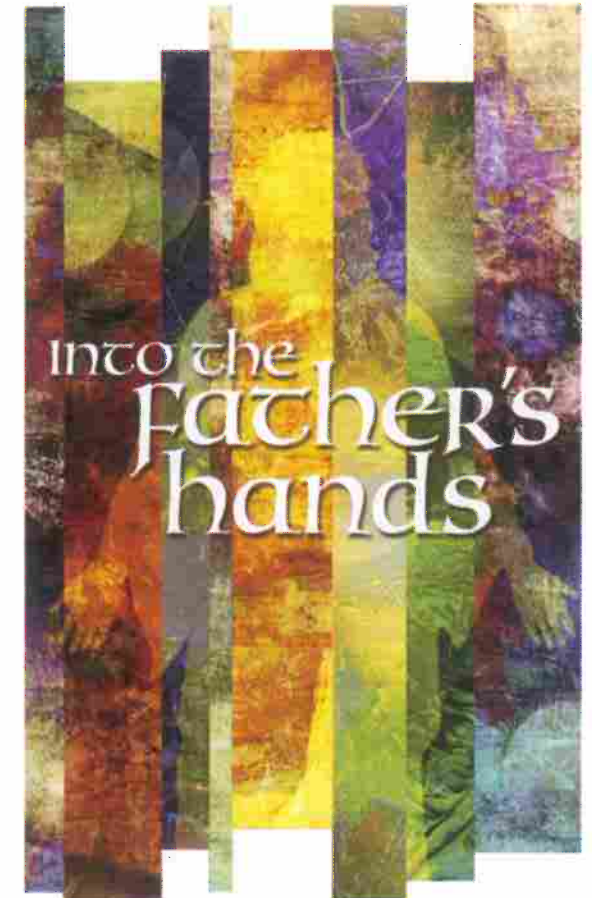
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UNDERSTANDING CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE;
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME,
EVEN IF HE DIES, WILL LIVE...
— John 11:25