

MAINE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

ST. PETER · MT. HOPE · MT. CALVARY · ST. ANNE · SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS

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Dear Friends of Maine Catholic Cemeteries:

Based on an extended review by a team of Diocesan cemetery managers, the following regulations have been adopted with the goal of providing a dignified and prayerful environment for each of our Diocesan operated Catholic cemeteries. Please note that management reserves the right to address, without notice, any infringement of these regulations which may be deemed to be a safety concern to visitors or employees, or detrimental to the overall atmosphere and appearance of the cemetery.

I (We) have received a copy of these regulations:

Signature

Date:

General Regulations

Decorations – Summer decorations may be placed two weeks prior to Memorial Day through November 15th. Winter/holiday decorations will be permitted beginning November 15th and ending April 1st. The Management reserves the right to remove and discard any and all such decorations left beyond the permitted dates. Funeral flowers may be left on a grave for a period not to exceed four days after a funeral. At the discretion of Management, they may be removed sooner if they become unsightly. No decorations may be placed at any mausoleum, niche, or crypt area. All decorations must fall in line with the faith and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Fencing – No coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, borders, or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around the lot (plot), grave or monument. The Management reserves the right to remove same, without notice, if so erected, planted, or placed.

Flags – Flags and flag holders may be placed on lots beginning two weeks before Memorial Day through Flag Day, June 14th. All flags must be placed next to the main above ground monument. No flag may be placed next to any individual markers, flush or raised. Exceptions may be made in flush marker sections and on graves with no monument privileges.

Flowers and Shrubs – Maintenance of pre-existing flowers, shrubs, trees, or other cemetery plantings is the responsibility of cemetery staff. Please contact management to address any such concerns. No new plantings of shrubs, trees or bushes is permitted.

Hours – Visitors are welcome between the hours of sunrise and sunset. The cemetery is closed after sunset.

Lawns & Plantings- Lawns shall not be obstructed by any planting or decoration that would impede cemetery grounds maintenance except in the following manner: In certain sections the planting of flowers may be done in front of the main above ground monument only and with Management approval. A short, solid border of scalloped concrete edging blocks around your planting area is allowed, running from one corner of the stone, out 14 inches (square or arc), then back to the other edge of the monument. Fencing and other easily broken barriers made of plastic, wood, or other materials are not permitted. Maintenance and upkeep of the planting border is the responsibility of the lot owner and may be removed by the cemetery if it falls into disrepair. Future burials may require the removal any border by cemetery personnel. No planting shall be made near or around any individual marker, flush or raised, unless in the area of the main headstone.

Ornaments – Shells, crushed or bleached stones, glass containers, vigil lights, statues, shepherd's crooks, metal hangers, pinwheels, windchimes, balloons, tin cans, or lawn ornaments of any kind, as defined by management, are not permitted.

Urns and Flower Vases – Placement of approved urns, vases, baskets, boxes and potted plants are restricted to one item on either end of the main monument. Above noted items may be placed in front of the monument if no plantings already exist. In the event that there is no above ground monument on the lot, one of the items described above may be placed where the above ground monument would be located so as not to obstruct mowing operations. Artificial decorations must be approved and placed in containers in the above said location. In bronze memorial sections, flowers or plants in a rustic basket or other durable container may be placed on a marker at the head of a grave or lot. In bronze sections that have a memorial with a vase, it is the responsibility of the lot owner to turn and lower the vase before winter. The cemetery will not be responsible for vase damage due to improper winter storage.

Conduct in the Cemetery

Animals – Except for service dogs, animals are not permitted on cemetery grounds.

Children – Minors are not permitted within the cemetery unless accompanied by an adult.

Cemetery Conduct – As cemeteries are sanctuaries for quiet prayer and remembrance, loitering, playing, and other noisy forms of conduct are not permitted.

Firearms – Hunting is prohibited on cemetery grounds. Firearms are prohibited on cemetery grounds except when used by honor guards in the case of military funerals.

Improper Assemblages - The Management reserves the right to forbid and prevent any loitering or assemblages which it deems improper.

Motor Vehicles – Funeral cars, automobiles, and trucks must be operated properly and within posted speed limits. At no time shall such vehicles drive through the gates or within the cemetery at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour. Automobiles may not park or come to a full stop before an open grave unless such automobiles are in attendance at a funeral. All vehicles operating in the cemetery must remain on the roads.

Peddling or Soliciting - No one will be permitted to peddle flowers, plants, or any other article or items, or to solicit the sale of any commodity within the cemetery.

Recreational Vehicles & Equipment: Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, skateboards, roller skates, roller blades, kites, and radio controlled gadgets, are not permitted.

Rubbish - Throwing rubbish on roads, driveways, paths, walks, or any part of the grounds of the cemetery, or in its buildings, is prohibited. All rubbish (including organic) must be removed from the cemetery by those generating the rubbish.

Signs and Advertising - No signs, notices, or advertising of any kind shall be allowed within the cemetery except those placed by Management.

Snow Removal – The removal of snow from any road or parcel of land in the cemetery is to be performed exclusively by cemetery personnel.

Visitors - Unless it is necessary to walk on the grass to gain access to one's lot (plot), visitors within the cemetery shall use only the avenues, roads, and walks. The Management expressly disclaims liability for any injuries sustained by anyone violating this rule.

Winter Conditions - Roads may be hazardous during the winter months and in inclement weather conditions. Use extreme caution if and when entering the cemetery under these conditions. The cemetery will not be held responsible for injury under winter or inclement weather conditions.

Note: The Cemetery, or its personnel, are not liable for any damages or losses caused by normal cemetery operations (mowing, trimming, plowing, grave digging), or by vandalism, weather, or theft.

The Management appreciates your understanding and anticipates your full cooperation.