



Food for Thought
Fr. James Bearss, Pastor

I would like to briefly highlight in this bulletin letter my various thoughts on our cemeteries. **Cemeteries are sacred places** not only because they hold the treasured remains of our love ones, but they also hold cherished memories. On a number of occasions, I have gone into cemeteries to conduct chalk rubbings with students on headstones, or to discover where the oldest individuals were buried within the cemetery.

Cemeteries are treasures and we who are the living are the responsible caretakers of those treasures. We as caretakers await with them and long for the **Second Coming of Jesus Christ**. It is not Catholic practice when our loves ones are cremated to pour out their remains over lakes, seas, fields or in the backyard. As Catholics, we respect the remains of our loves ones and the dignity of those remains remind us of their life with us. Cemeteries are the place where both the bodies and cremated remains of persons are buried in a similar fashion just as the tomb that housed the sacred body of Jesus, who awaited the transformation of the resurrection. We are also awaiting with billions of others the arrival of Jesus and the resurrection into immortality.

This past week, grave sales went up for purchase at St. Mary Cemetery at \$1200 per grave. This price was settled upon because it would be the normal price for a none parishioner to be buried in our cemeteries. 80% of the total sales will be

earmarked for the Cemetery Endowment Fund which has been grossly underfunded; and, 20% would remain available for continued maintenance and capital improvements for our cemeteries. I would solicit your willingness to place our Cemetery Endowment Fund on your electronic giving, or your general giving each and every month. I will be continuing my support in this matter for the care of the good people to which I have been entrusted. If you need assistance, please contact the parish office.

Featured below is a picture of the **South East Side** of St. Mary Cemetery that is one of the two areas open for grave purchases. There are approximately 100 plots (four graves per plot) opened that could be purchased. The purchase of these graves are on

a first come basis and there will be no reserving of gravesites.

We are still taking orders for the **purchase of maple trees** to be planted in Resurrection Cemetery either in the spring or in the fall. The desired trees for purchase are \$200 each. Please contact the parish office to purchase a tree or for more information.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the **Boy Scouts** of

Gaylord. They will be graciously caring for the mowing and trimming of both St. Mary and Resurrection Cemetery this coming summer.

May enteral rest be granted unto them Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.
Pax Vobiscum

St. Mary Cemetery



South East Side



Main Entrance Development of Fence and Pillars