



Saint Mary Cemetery

a ministry of Saint Juan Diego Parish
201 9th Street, Sharpsburg PA 15215-2304



March 2010

Dear friends,

On the reverse side of this letter is a short survey which we request you answer and return to the Saint Juan Diego Parish Office. With this survey St. Mary Cemetery is taking an important step in determining if we should build a mausoleum on cemetery land at the corner of Kirkwood Drive and Spring Grove Road in the Township of O'Hara. We need to determine the level of interest for this project. **Completion of this survey does not obligate you to make any purchase in the future.** However, if you wish to be contacted regarding purchasing a cemetery plot include your name and phone number. The results of this survey will be published in a future parish bulletin.

Perhaps you would be interested in a brief history of our cemetery. St. Mary Cemetery was founded in 1882, on three acres of land in Shaler Township off Sharps Hill Road, for the parishioners of St. Mary Church, Sharpsburg. Seven years later a small brick chapel was erected. It still stands, having been renovated in 2004. It is used for families to gather for the prayers of commendation (rather than braving the elements and uneven ground at graveside). In 1901 St. Mary Cemetery was expanded with the purchase of 117 acres across the street in O'Hara Township.

In 2008 St. Mary Cemetery and the Township of O'Hara reached a resolution regarding cemetery property on Kirkwood Drive. The cemetery kept 2.35 acres at the corner of Spring Grove Road and Kirkwood Drive as a possible site for a mausoleum. The township took ownership of 4 acres alongside Kirkwood Drive for a community park. In October 2009 O'Hara Township dedicated the George J. Sacco Park, in honor of Mr. Sacco, a longtime firefighter, PA State Fire Instructor and township resident. With the merger of St. Mary, St. John Cantius and Madonna of Jerusalem Parishes into Saint Juan Diego Parish on March 1, 2009, St. Mary Cemetery became a ministry of Saint Juan Diego Parish.

Acquiring a burial plot for you and your loved ones before a need arises is a time-honored way of easing stress at a time of emotional turmoil and loss. The advantages of pre-arranging your burial needs are:

- Less financial burden at the time of death;
- Protection from future price increase occurring five, ten or more years from now;
- Making selections for crypt or grave location without rain or snow that may occur at the time of death;
- Relieving surviving family members from making hasty decisions at a time of grief and loss.

For more information about purchasing a burial plot at St. Mary Cemetery, Sharps Hill, please call cemetery foreman, Randy Fox at 412-781-1177.

Thank you so much for your cooperation in the St. Mary Cemetery survey.

Father Frank D. Almada
Pastor, Saint Juan Diego Parish

Saint Mary Cemetery, Sharps Hill

1. Do you already own cemetery property which is deeded in your name?

_____YES _____NO

If so, in what cemetery? _____

2. Do you have reserved burial space in a cemetery lot deeded to another family member?

_____YES _____NO

If so, in what cemetery? _____

3. Do you have relatives buried in St. Mary Cemetery?

_____YES _____NO

4. Would you like to purchase burial space in St. Mary Cemetery now?

_____YES _____NO

If yes, which type of burial space would you prefer?

_____Mausoleum Crypts

_____Tradition in ground plot

_____Interred Cremated Remains

5. Are you interested in learning more about purchasing burial space in St. Mary Cemetery at this time?

_____YES _____NO

6. I belong to:

Saint Juan Diego Parish, Sharpsburg

Saint Joseph Parish, O'Hara

Saint Scholastica Parish, Aspinwall

Saint Edward Parish, Blawnox

All Saints Parish, Etna

Saint Mary Assumption, Glenshaw

Saint Bonaventure, Glenshaw

Other _____

Name (optional) _____

Daytime phone number _____

Please return to the parish office
by April 30, 2010

Thank you for completing this survey!