



Go Make Disciples

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

August 4, 2025

Dear brother priests,

Greetings in the Lord! As you know, the historic Resurrection Cemetery has been an enduring gift to our community. They have served the needs of families and faith-based communities in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area and beyond since 1960.

It is hard to overestimate the value of Catholic cemeteries. They are living expressions of one of the most important Corporal Works of Mercy: to bury the dead, not only those of our faith but of every faith. With the new Calvary Cemetery, scheduled to open in early 2027, Catholic Cemeteries of Oklahoma City is expanding our community presence both to meet an urgent need and to fulfill this sacred mission of mercy *to all* for another century and beyond.

Often the first place people come at a difficult time, the Catholic cemetery symbolizes a vital connection to be an extension of the local parish community. Our intent in this archdiocese is to encourage every member of our church to expand our ministry horizons just as we are expanding our cemetery capacities.

As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of each person and the promise of eternal life. Just as we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in a parish community when we enter the Church, so the burial rite ministered by our clergy and celebrated in Catholic parishes and cemeteries completes that sacred cycle.

Resurrection Cemetery, and our new Calvary Cemetery, are responsible for the sacred tasks of reverent burial or entombment and respectful maintenance of the burial site for future generations. These services provide hope beyond the grave; a hope which points to the Resurrection of Christ, and eternal life.

I encourage you, my brother priests, and the lay faithful throughout the archdiocese to deepen our collaboration with our Catholic cemeteries and to embrace this beautiful ministry—not only for the spiritual benefit of our parishioners, but also as a witness of hope and service to people of all faiths in our community.

With the assurance of my prayers and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City