



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND  
IN OREGON

*Office of the Archbishop*

May 15, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Praised Be Jesus Christ!

I am very excited to announce that we are in the final planning stages to build a new funeral home located on the grounds of Gethsemani Cemetery.

I have been working closely with our Director of Catholic Cemeteries, Mr. Tim Corbett, on a shared vision for our Archdiocese. The process in coming to the decision to build a funeral home on the property of Gethsemani Cemetery has been in the works for over a year and began with a survey of clergy in the Archdiocese.

This Church owned and operated facility will be a model for the entire Archdiocese as to how to minister to Catholic families at the time of death. To be able to provide funeral home services in complete fidelity to the Church's sensibilities at a funeral will be a great blessing for all of our people.

One of the areas that this new funeral home (and subsequently the funeral home staff) will be addressing is education about cremation and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Cremation services will be offered to families and the teachings, practices and preferences of the Church will be explained and encouraged.

Pending permit approvals, the Archdiocese of Portland hopes to break ground in the late summer with an opening date within one year. An open house will be scheduled next spring so that those interested can tour the facility and hear more about how the funeral home will be operated.

I look forward to bringing you more updates as the project moves forward.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon