



Cemeterian of the Year - 2017

Carol K. Giambalvo, CCCE

announced by Roman Szabelski, CCCE

Good Evening,

I have always thought that it would be pretty cool to be the cardinal who gets to fling open the doors of the balcony overlooking St. Peter's square in Rome and call out *'Habemus Papam'* those famous words - *'We Have a Pope.'*

Well, I don't think that I will ever get to do that, but with that same excitement and joy, I do get to cry out tonight *'Habemus Cemeterian Anni'* - we have a *Cemeterian of the Year*. Since the award's inception in 2008 - 10 years ago, six members of the Catholic Cemetery Conference have been honored with the 'Reverend William P. Casey Cemeterian of the Year' Award. The recognition is not easily awarded; and awarding it is not taken lightly!

Fr. Casey was the first president of the National Catholic Cemetery Conference now known as the Catholic Cemetery Conference (CCC), and hosted our Conference's first convention in Chicago in 1949. A quote attributed to him from that first convention is, *"God grant us to ever mind that ours is a sacred work."*

The purpose of the Cemeterian of the Year award is to honor a CCC cemeterian member who is ever mindful that ours is a sacred work and whose commitment to the Corporal Work of Mercy of burying the dead is above and beyond that which is normal. Receiving the Cemeterian of the Year award is recognition of the recipient's individual quest for excellence in their cemetery ministry with a faithfulness to the Catholic Cemetery Conference's mission of being the pre-eminent resource for all Catholic Cemeteries and a faith network committed to cemetery advocacy and education.

Tonight's recipient is well known to each and every one of us, as they have been a member of our Conference since the early 1990s. During those years, our honoree has served on a number of committees, been a director at large, and an officer of our Conference.

Like many of us, our esteemed cemeterian did not start their work at the Diocese in a cemetery office, but started their career in a parish office that happened to have a cemetery. From that one parish cemetery their responsibility grew and grew and grew, whereas today they oversee a number of Diocesan cemeteries and many, many parish cemeteries.

As their responsibilities grew so did their desire to be educated and to educate. Our recipient holds a masters degree in theology, is a certified Catholic Cemetery Executive and is a certified grief counselor.

As SHE learned, she also saw the need to educate others about our Catholic cemetery ministry. She was instrumental in the development of our Conference's *School of Leadership & Management Excellence* at John Carroll University and now at the University of Notre Dame. She is a regular presenter at the School of Leadership and at the Smaller Cemetery Seminar. But she felt a special affection or bond to smaller cemeteries as she oversees



Carol Giambalvo, CCCE, having just been named CCC's 2017 Cemeterian of the Year, graciously thanks those at the closing banquet for awarding her this prestigious honor.

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Carol Giambalvo is CCC's 2017 Cemeterian of the Year



Joining an elite group of six other Catholic cemeterians, Carol received the award from CCC President Steve Bittner, CCCE, CCE, (left) and Roman Szabelski, CCCE.

This Award Means More Than Words Can Describe, Carol Says ...

Being a member of the Catholic Cemetery Conference is being a part of a second family. They are there to support you, to offer you positive criticism, to laugh with you, to cry with you, and to share love. Working for Catholic Cemeteries in the Diocese of Rockford is not work, it is a ministry. Being able to help people during their worst times, and once again celebrating with them in better times is a gift from God.

Receiving the Cemeterian of the Year Award this past September means more than words can ever describe. There are other cemeterians that I have learned so much from, and in some ways “idolized” their knowledge and dedication through the years – and on the night of September 22, my heroes surprised me with this recognition. It was a humbling experience and one that I will never forget. Thank you friends and family of the CCC.

A special thank you to Bishop David Malloy, Bishop of Rockford, for allowing me to minister to the grieving of the Rockford Diocese. Most of all, I thank God – Father, Son and Spirit, for their gift of grace. ✍

Cemeterian of the Year, continued

seventy-three parish cemeteries, and so my neighbor to the west was instrumental in developing our conference's Smaller Cemetery Seminar.

Her immediate supervisor, who many of us know because of his involvement in our School of Leadership, states that because of her efforts “... (there has been) a tremendous growth in education among our parish cemeteries and has led to uniformity in best practices.” He continues in his congratulatory letter to her; that recently he called her and had to leave a message with the secretary as she was out in the cemetery on a tractor.

Her Bishop, Bishop Malloy, in his note of gratitude states that this is a “... well-merited recognition of your years of service and care to the remains of those who have died,” and “it is an extension of Christ's own work.”

Let's see what we all know – it is a she, who works with many parish cemeteries as well as diocesan cemeteries. She's involved in our Conference's and other dioceses' smaller cemetery operations. She is well-educated in theology and is a Certified Catholic Cemetery Executive (CCCE) - the second woman to attain that recognition, and, she occasionally rides a tractor.

Besides being my neighbor to the west, and a dear friend, by now you all know that I am speaking about **Carol Giambalvo**. Carol, please join me on stage so President Bittner can present you with the Catholic Cemetery Conference's **Reverend William P. Casey Cemeterian of the Year Award**. ✍

Congratulations, Carol

Cemeterians & Suppliers



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Captions:

- 1) Anthony Carpinello, cccce, (Providence) and Peter Ryan, cccce (Rockville Centre)
- 2) Irene Lazaroski, CCC Executive Director, saves the last dance for Past President Andy Schafer, khs, cccce (Newark)
- 3) Msgr. Joseph Rebman, cccce, (Wilmington) visits the Eickhof Columbaria booth and Anders Macy
- 4) Mary Ellen Gerrity (Metuchen), Metra Taleghani (Oklahoma City), Christina Ford (Oklahoma City) and her husband, Ken, enjoy the Friday night reception
- 5) Shelby VanBree Kaylor and Poul Lemasters, Esq. at the Friday reception.
- 6) Mike Patin during presentations on Wednesday, Sept. 20
- 7) Dave Ward attends to the Grever & Ward booth in the Exhibition Hall at Summerlin
- 8) Jack Goodnoe, Jack Goodnoe Cemetery Planning & Design, spends time with John O'Brien, cccce (Hamilton) and Michael Wesner (Orange)

CCC President Steve Bittner, CCCE, and Vice President Rich Peterson, CCCE, Attend the Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference (DFMC) in Baltimore, MD

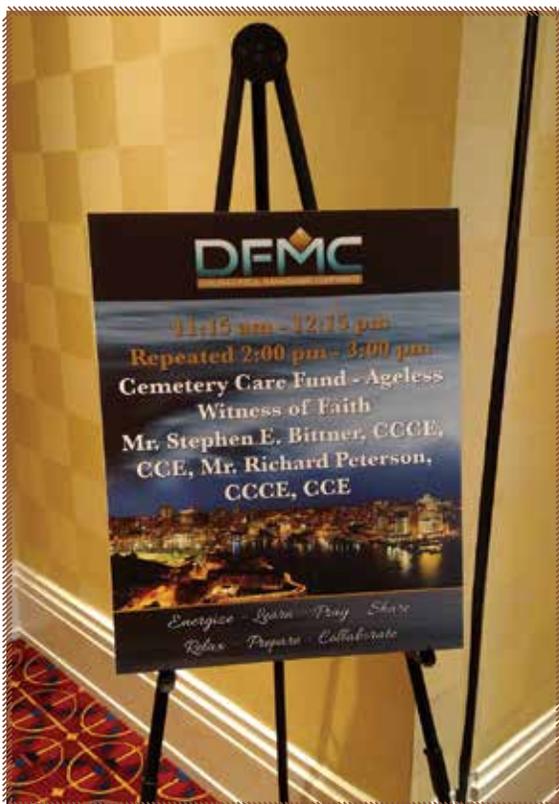


Rich Peterson, CCCE, CCE, at left, and CCC President Steve Bittner, CCCE, CCE with Jodi Rippon from the Diocese of Rockford, introduce CCC to those attending DFMC.

CCC President Steve Bittner, CCCE, CCE, and CCC Vice President Richard Peterson, CCE, CCE, spoke at the Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference (DFMC) in Baltimore, MD on September 25, 2017, on the topic of Cemetery Care Funds.

This annual meeting brings together CFOs, Controllers, Directors of Accounting, Bishops, Chancellors and other important leaders and decision-makers from Catholic arch/dioceses in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and the U.S. Territories.

Their presentation, entitled “Cemetery Care Fund - Ageless Witness of Faith,” was on the subject of how to deal with underfunded cemetery endowments. It is available for viewing on the CCC Website Member Portal under the topic “Miscellaneous Resources.”



DFMC Executive Director Thanks CCC's Bittner and Peterson for Well-received Presentation

DFMC Executive Director, Patrick Markey stated that, “On behalf of the Board and Membership of the DFMC, I want to thank you so very much for your wonderful presentation, ‘Cemetery Care Fund - Ageless Witness of Faith.’ We have received numerous appreciative comments on both the content and timeliness of your presentation.”

St. Joseph Cemetery Association

— by Robert L. Winter



St. Joseph Cemetery Association has been serving the Catholic Community of Greater Cincinnati since 1854. The cemetery is located just six miles west of downtown Cincinnati atop one of the highest points in the area and consists of 163 rolling, tree-filled acres. The land for the cemetery was purchased by Archbishop Purcell in 1853 in response to Cincinnati's second cholera epidemic, from 1849 to 1853.

The cholera epidemic devastated Cincinnati's immigrant population, which was predominately Catholic and poor. It is estimated that Cincinnati lost nearly 10 percent of its population to the epidemic, not surprisingly, the poor being disproportionately affected. It is worth noting that Cincinnati, at this time, was one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and the 6th largest city overall. Much was due to a large immigrant population.

Ironically, that immigrant population was fractured between Irish, Italian and Germans. The St. Joseph Cemetery Association was set up to service Irish and Italian families, while a slightly older cemetery, also named St. Joseph Cemetery (1845), had been developed for families of German descent. Because of this, St. Joseph Cemetery Association is identified as the New St. Joseph Cemetery.

A prominent landmark of the cemetery is the 1,200 crypt St. Joseph Mausoleum, constructed in 1911, and believed to be the 4th oldest public mausoleum in the country. The limestone and granite exterior compliments the Carrara marble clad interior, and massive copper door entrance. Natural lighting is provided by 50 stained glass windows. The building was completely refurbished in 1990 at a cost of \$650,000.

This mausoleum is the final resting place of many historic figures in Cincinnati's Catholic community, including the first Bishop, Most Rev. Edward D. Fenwick, who not surprisingly, died of cholera in 1832 and was moved to the mausoleum in 1916. Archbishop Henry Moeller is also entombed in the building, with Archbishop William Elder buried just outside the building.

Among the least celebrated to the contemporary visitor but certainly among the most important persons in the history of the Archdiocese is Mrs. Sarah Peter, who died in 1877. The Church remembers her most for bringing five orders of religious women to the area – the Sisters of Good Shepherd, the Sisters of Mercy, the little Sisters of the Poor, the Sisters of St. Francis, and the Sacred Heart nuns.

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