

Bury The Dead



"In death, God calls man to himself."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Confession should be about killing sin and burying that sin in the past. Just as we should respect the dead and learn from their successes and failures, so too we must respect the power of sin and the devil and learn from our own falls. This, however, does not mean that we must allow ourselves to be enslaved or tormented by our past sins. God Almighty, in His Supreme Wisdom and Mercy, has given us the vehicle to bury our sins while learning from them. This society pretends that there is no sin to bury and thus promotes that sin to grow and keep tormenting us. True social justice demands that we create a path to fresh starts toward salvation, not that we lead others on the wide road to perdition under the guise of serving their earthly needs.

"The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead . . . honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit." *Catechism of the Catholic Church (#2300).*

For some long-suffering people, the prospect of death can be a welcome relief and more easily accepted by survivors than are tragic, untimely deaths. In either case, Christians believe that the act of "burying the dead" has far broader implications. It encompasses compassion and support for survivors to help them better cope with their loss and to encourage them to go on living with the living. Anyone who has ever lost someone dear to them knows firsthand the depths of pain and anguish associated with such a loss, whether it be of a spouse, parent, child, sibling, other family member, dear friend or classmate (perhaps even a pet). Youngsters who suffer any loss face particularly difficult circumstances.

As God's hands on Earth, we can help ease the sufferings of the dying and give comfort to survivors.

Here are some suggestions:

- Provide companionship, be a good listener, have compassion, comfort them with kindness and pray with them.
- Offer daily prayers for the grace of a happy death for the terminally ill, and for the peace and comfort of surviving family and friends.
- Urge those who have particular difficulty in coping to seek pastoral or professional counseling.
- Support religious and other organizations dedicated to care for the terminally ill and those that offer grief counseling.
- Attend funeral or wake services; your presence can mean so much to survivors.
- Send appropriate Mass cards for the dead and spiritual bouquets for the living. Even a simple note with your thoughts and prayers can have a healing effect on those grieving a loss.
- Work with our Funeral Lunch Program
- Be a part of our groups to pray the rosary before funerals
- Join Hospice