

**An important message from Fr. Jack regarding Christian Burial
(excerpted from the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith):**

**Instruction *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* regarding the burial of the
deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation,
25.10.2016**

Excerpts (from the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith):

- A. Following the most ancient Christian tradition, the Church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places.
- B. The Church continues to prefer the practice of burying the body of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased. Nevertheless, cremation is not prohibited, *“unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine”*.
- C. When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority.
- D. [T]he conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted [...] {T}he ashes may not be divided among various family members and due respect must be maintained regarding the circumstances of such a conservation.
- E. In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects. These courses of action cannot be legitimized by an appeal to the sanitary, social, or economic motives that may have occasioned the choice of cremation.
- F. When the deceased notoriously has requested cremation and the scattering of their ashes for reasons contrary to the Christian faith, a Christian funeral must be denied to that person according to the norms of the law.

You may read the complete text at:

www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20160815_ad-resurgendum-cum-christo_en.html

Additional Important Information for our parishioners

- 1) Funerals should not be delayed but celebrated in a timely fashion.
- 2) If the costs associated with the funeral are a challenge, please consult with the pastor.
- 3) One should plan for his or her funeral. In one's will, and in your directives to your Power of Attorney and to your family, one should specify end of life issues using Catholic health care directives, specify regulations regarding body or cremains, and typically call for the complete Funeral Rites, which should typically include Vigil, Funeral Mass and Rite of Committal.

Note: Funeral planning information for our parishioners (including a planner, readings, and available music selections) is available on our website. Please go to www.saintmonicas.com, click on "Contact" and scroll down to ***Funeral Information.***

01/30/2019