

# On Death XVIII

## Proper Burial? Where, what, why this choice is also important

Someone you love has died. What do you do? First things first; you must call a mortuary for the removal of the person's body. If the person has died in the hospital, the staff will call, but you must select the mortuary. Who should you call? There are a variety of "cheap" options such as Neptune Society; there are local Funeral homes, and there is the Catholic Funeral service "Holy Angels." I unreservedly recommend Holy Angels in Antioch; the Diocese of Oakland has cemeteries and Funeral directors throughout the area. I have found that the Catholic Cemeteries are the most flexible and since they are Catholic, they know what needs doing. Nevertheless we work with all the cemeteries and funeral homes. The low cost options will remove the body and cremate directly. They do not assist with funeral arrangements and most often it seems that when all is said and done the Catholic Cemetery is the cheapest option even though for example Neptune's initial low cost seems attractive. This is a personal choice and we will cooperate with whoever is selected. In the past the Church did not accept cremation in order to preserve the body intact as we await resurrection. However in recent years that has changed and we have accepted the practice so long as it does not represent a denial of the resurrection of the body. Still the Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the body be observed as the "best" choice.

**IHM Pray for us.**

*Fr. Jerry*