

Catholic Cemeteries Parish Engagement

Proclaiming the beauty of the funeral liturgy & the right to a Christian burial *(7th–8th Grade)*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

The Catholic Cemetery Conference (CCC) strives to provide information, training, best practices and guidance for Catholic Cemeteries throughout the United States and Canada. CCC's mission is to promote, to educate and to inculcate a culture of Catholic burial. Burying the dead is a Corporal Work of Mercy and an essential part of the Church's mission.



We live in the hope of the resurrection promised by Christ who spoke of the human person as a temple of the Holy Spirit. For that reason care and respect for the deceased matters greatly. The Church strives to assist grieving families in laying their loved ones to rest and provides support and comfort to the family and loved ones of the deceased.

These materials and videos presented by the CCC spell out what that care and respect needs to look like through the whole burial process. From pre-planning for death to the Vigil, to the Funeral Mass and the Rite of Committal, these materials and videos provide information on how Catholic Cemeteries accompany families in this difficult time.

Likewise, lesson plans are presented in order to introduce children and young people to the Rites of Christian Burial, outlining how and why the Church treats the human body in death with the utmost respect and dignity.

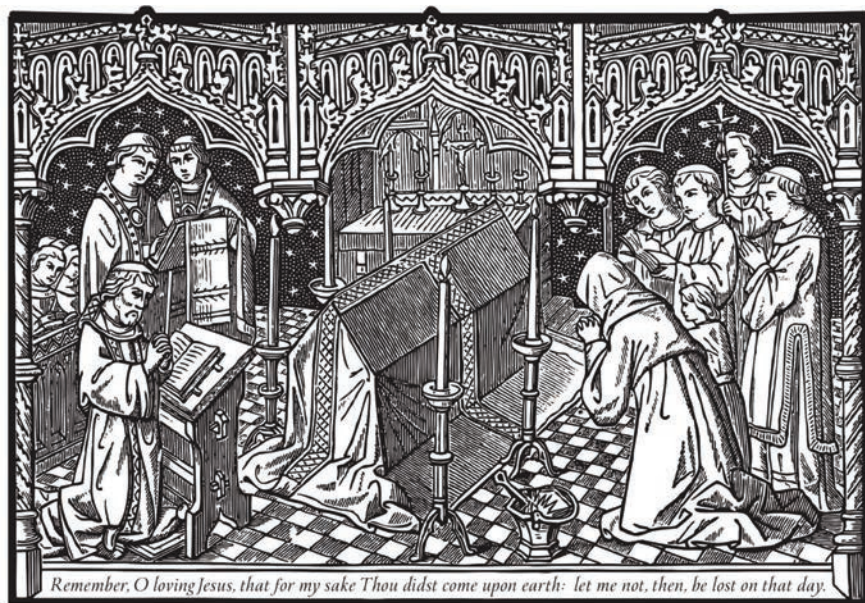
The burial or entombment of the deceased person's body or cremated remains is central to the Church's mission. The hope of CCC is that these materials will assist bishops, priests, Catholic cemeterians and pastoral educators to inform our Catholic people of the Church's approach to death and burial of loved ones.

Choicest blessings!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald Kicanas".

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas
Episcopal Advisor for the Catholic Cemetery Conference
Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Tucson



Nihil Obstat

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas
Bishop Emeritus,
Diocese of Tucson
Episcopal Moderator of the
Catholic Cemetery Conference
April 2020

Imprimatur

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New Life after Death

Please read before the lesson to prepare

Most students will have experienced celebrating Good Friday and Easter and likely know the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. They have also likely experienced suffering and the feeling of redemption that comes after suffering for a worthy cause. We are called to share in this mystery and proclaim the great truth that the death of the faithful is not the end and ultimately leads to new life in Christ.

This session is meant to relate our own suffering and redemption to Christ's paschal mystery. It seeks to connect in a meaningful way the pattern of death and resurrection to their own lives, both spiritually and physically.

Below are some Bible and Catechism quotations that will help you prepare for this lesson.

Bible Quotations

“For if we have grown into union with Him through a death like His, we shall also be united with Him in the resurrection.” – *Rom 6:5*

“Our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” – *2 Tim 1:10*

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.” – *John 14:2,3*

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” – *Phil 3:10*



Catechism Quotations

CCC 1521 – “Union with the passion of Christ. By the grace of this sacrament the sick person receives the strength and the gift of uniting himself more closely to Christ's Passion: in a certain way he is consecrated to bear fruit by configuration to the Savior's redemptive Passion. Suffering, a consequence of original sin, acquires a new meaning; it becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus.

CCC 991 – “Belief in the resurrection of the dead has been an essential element of the Christian faith from its beginnings. ‘The confidence of Christians is the resurrection of the dead; believing this we live.’

CCC 1505 – “By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive passion.

Opening Prayer

Suggested prayer, modify as needed

Dear Lord, You have made us to know, love and serve you. Help us to conform our lives to yours and trust in your most holy and perfect will for us. Help us carry our crosses and face the challenges of this life with confidence and peace. Knowing that we can join our suffering to yours and through your grace rise with you on the last day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1) Proclamation

"I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33



2) Explanation

- Explain how Joseph's suffering and redemption foreshadows Christ's Paschal Mystery.
- Relate the pattern of death and resurrection to their own lives, both spiritually and physically.

Lesson Plan		Duration: 60 minutes
Introduction (10 min)	Read the account of the betrayal of Joseph (Genesis 37:12-36) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>To help students visualize the narrative within the context of the whole book of Genesis, watch The Bible Project's video: "The Book of Genesis Overview – Part 2 of 2"</i> 	
Guided Learning Steps (35 min)	Read the account of the betrayal of Jesus (John 18:1-11) Ask students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How is the suffering of Joseph similar to the suffering of Jesus? How are they different?</i> Joseph and Jesus comic strip assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design a parallel comic strip, where each box features both Joseph and Jesus, but there is only one statement that applies to both (e.g., <i>betrayal</i>). 	
Closure (15 min)	Journal Question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How does the pattern of "sin -> suffering -> redemption -> resurrection" play out in your life? Spiritually? Physically? 	

Teaching

Bible Reading

- Let's listen to a reading from the Bible about the betrayal of Joseph and how God used it to bring about good. Read Genesis 37:12-36
- Read John 18:1-11 and facilitate a brief discussion on the story and how it parallels the story of Joseph.

Catechesis (main points to cover)

There are many parallels between the story of Joseph and the life of Jesus. If students are having a difficult time calling them to mind, here are some suggestions:

- Joseph was a shepherd (Gen. 37:2) - Jesus is the Great Shepherd (John 10)
- Joseph was loved by his father (Gen. 37:3-4); Jesus was beloved by the Father. (Mat. 3:17; 17:5; John 10:17; Philippians 2:9)
- Joseph was hated by his brothers (Gen. 37:4); Jesus was hated by His "brothers" (mankind) (John 1:11; Luke 19:14).
- Joseph foretold of his future sovereignty (Gen. 37:7-12); Jesus did the same. (Mat. 26:64)
- Joseph was conspired against (Gen. 37:18); Jesus was also conspired against. (Mat. 12:14)
- Joseph was stripped of his coat (Gen. 37:23); Jesus was stripped of His robe. (Mat. 27:27, 28; John 19:23)
- Joseph is sold for the price of a slave (Gen. 37:38); Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver (the price of a slave).
- Judah suggested the idea of selling his brother (37:26-28); the Greek name for Judah is Judas (Mat. 1:2-3).
- Joseph's blood sprinkled coat (goat blood) is presented to his father (Gen. 37:31); Jesus is our scapegoat, and His blood was presented to the Father as a sin offering. (Leviticus 16:8-10.)

3) Application

Guided reflection and discussion

After reading the scriptures and reflecting on the similarities in the story of Joseph's suffering and redemption, and Jesus' paschal mystery, have a conversation using the following questions to guide students towards a greater appreciation of how we understand suffering, death, resurrection.

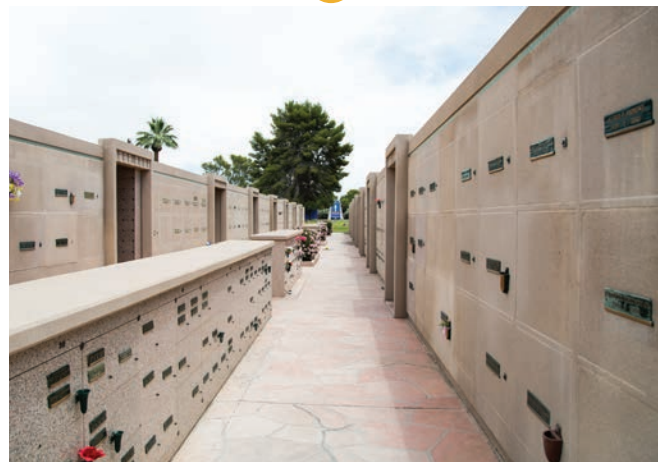
- 1) How is the suffering of Joseph similar to the suffering of Jesus.
- 2) How are they different.
- 3) How do Christians understand suffering, redemption and resurrection.
- 4) How is our understanding different from our current society's view of suffering.
- 5) How do we honor those who have died.
- 6) How is the way we honor the dead different from current society.
- 7) How does the Catholic Burial articulate how we share in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Suggested: Use some of the videos at

www.catholicburialtraditions.org to explain the Catholic Funeral Rite.

4) Celebration

Finish the lesson by reinforcing any key points and offering a concluding prayer inviting children to pray for any family and friends who have died, and those who have no one to pray for them.



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For more information, visit us at:
www.catholicburialtraditions.org