



Diocese of Bridgeport Hires CMS to Direct Cemetery Operations

Pleasanton, CA--February 15, 2017--The Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport has announced that it has signed a management services contract with Catholic Management Services (CMS), a nonprofit organization specializing in providing strategic business planning and professional services to revitalize cemetery operations. CMS, which is operated under the Diocese of Oakland and headquartered in Pleasanton, Calif., currently serves numerous dioceses across the country. As part of this agreement, CMS will provide an Executive Director of Cemeteries for the Diocese of Bridgeport and utilize its team of experts in various disciplines to build a financially sound cemetery ministry.

“CMS is excited to partner with the Diocese of Bridgeport to help further the sacred ministry of their Catholic cemeteries,” said CMS CEO Robert Seelig. “The Catholic Church serves a vital role in supporting families as they make difficult end-of-life decisions. We look forward to working with funeral directors and parishes to enhance this important ministry for regular church-goers as well as those who may have lost their connection along the way.”

The Diocese of Bridgeport currently owns and operates nine cemeteries performing over 1,800 interments annually. CMS is providing an interim Director and the cemetery staff will remain employees of the Diocese while functionally reporting to CMS. The new Director of Cemeteries will be hired and trained over the next six months while budgets and goals are being developed.

“Our Catholic cemeteries are sacred places because within their consecrated grounds, we commend our loved ones to the Lord,” said Bishop Caggiano. “The new partnership with Catholic Management Services will help us respond to contemporary needs, plan for the future and better serve those who come to us in a time of grief.”

About Catholic Management Services

Catholic Management Services was formed as a 501(c)3 nonprofit to serve the greater Catholic Church at the request of bishops and dioceses throughout the country to provide funeral and cemetery consulting and management services. CMS staff works in numerous dioceses supporting over 30 active cemeteries conducting 10,000 burial services annually as well as 10 funeral centers providing over 2,500 funeral and cremation services. CMS’ unique “shared services” model has reinvigorated a vital ministry producing positive financial results when organizations are being challenged to sustain their operations. Find more information at www.cmsmission.org.