



## Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church Hot Springs Village, Arkansas Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas **Cremation Guidelines**

The following has been dictated by the Diocese of Little Rock concerning cremation:

1. In response to a request made by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States in 1996, the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approved the English text to be used in funeral rites in the presence of the cremated remains of the deceased. The use of the translation was mandated on November 2, 1997, subject to each diocesan bishop granting an indult permitting its use. Bishop McDonald of the Diocese of Little Rock granted this indult on April 21, 1998.
2. The official translation is given in the appendix form to the “Order of Christian Funerals” officially mandated in 1989.

### **WHAT EXACTLY IS BEING STATED IN THIS NEW DECREE?**

- a. The Church still prefers that the body be present for the funeral liturgies. In fact, even when cremation does occur, it is preferred that cremation be done after the Funeral Mass is completed.
- b. Realizing that sometimes there is a strong preference or even a necessity for cremation to take place prior to these rites, and knowing that some of the faithful would like to have the cremated remains present during the Mass, this is now permitted.
- c. The Appendix is a reminder to us of the respect given to the cremated remains; that they should be placed in a “worthy vessel” and treated with respect and honor. They must also be entombed in a grave, mausoleum, or columbarium.

### **WHAT ELSE DOES THE RITUAL PERMIT?**

- a. The entrance Rite is as it is presently done, but without the placing of a Pall.
- b. The use of the Easter Candle should be maintained.
- c. Holy Water and Incense may be used.
- d. Special prayers as found in the Appendix may be prayed.

### **WHAT DOES THE RITUAL NOT PERMIT?**

- a. The use of the Pall is omitted.
- b. The proper disposition of the cremated remains does not include scattering: (1) on the sea, (2) from the air, or (3) on the ground.
- c. The cremated remains are not to be distributed among family or friends, or kept in the home. They are to be entombed as soon as possible.