



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

THE MOST REVEREND ERIK T. POHLMEIER

May 25, 2023

Dear Faithful Brothers and Sisters,

John's gospel captures the words of Jesus that give greatest hope in the face of death. "I am the Resurrection and the life." (John 11:25)

Our belief in the promise of God gives us hope even as we mourn those we have lost. A Catholic Cemetery is part of the care that the Church gives to families at the time of death. The dignity of each person created by God calls us to show compassionate care for the bodies of our deceased loved ones. Families deserve a peaceful and beautiful place to come. The hallowed ground that holds our mortal remains should be inviting and offer comfort to all who mourn.

The prayers of the funeral Mass highlight the enduring reality of the human bonds we share. At the time of death, "our life is changed, not ended." This belief should mark our hearts and our cemeteries. The connection so many people feel at the graves of their loved ones reminds us that there is life beyond the grave. The ties that bind us endure in the Kingdom of our God.

At a Catholic cemetery we carry out the work of mercy that is burying the dead. We pray for those we know and those known only to God. Let each of us be reminded of the power of our prayers. Pray for the souls of the faithful departed and pray for all who mourn. May God's Kingdom come.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Erik T. Pohlmeier
Bishop of St. Augustine