

Your Catholic Legacy



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Inside:

Why Don't Catholics Spread Ashes? 2

In Case of Emergency, Call a Priest! 3

The Legacy Society of the Archdiocese of Toronto 4

A Priest, an Armoured Car, and a Trunk Load of Silver Bars

by *Quentin Schesnuik*

The old man's white beard shook as his quivering lips whispered, "The entire world financial system is going to collapse. An armoured car will arrive in 15 minutes to deliver me a truckload of silver bars worth about a quarter million dollars. If you come with me now, half of them are for you."

"Where are we going?" I asked.

"Behind the building where no one will see."

This actually happened. The old man, who I'll call Phil, and I were sitting in my office at the Archdiocese of Toronto's Chancery Building. Beside him was a well-known priest of the Archdiocese. Phil had come to discuss a donation to the Church.

Father joined the conversation, "Phil and I just met a few days ago at a religious event. He arrived today and tracked me down here at the Chancery Office."

Phil nodded, "I want to start a home for single mothers. When the collapse comes, they will need a place to go. There will be no social services left. Everything will be wiped out."

"When is the collapse coming?" I asked

skeptically.

"I have

no idea. Only God knows that," he replied.

On the elevator ride I was thinking there would be no silver bars waiting for us. My decision to agree to go to the back of the building meant we had to pass by security and a nearby subway entrance meant there were always people walking by. As Phil was quite elderly, I knew there was no physical threat.

When we reached the back of the building there was no armoured car.

"It should be here in a few minutes," Phil said.

Twenty minutes later, a black Lincoln Continental pulled up. A serious looking man with dark sunglasses and a black tie sprang out. "The armoured car is in the LCBO parking lot up the road. "I've radioed them to come over."

Next—in one of the oddest moments of my career—Father and I watched with utter bewilderment as an armoured car backed into the parking lot behind our building. Two guards got out. One holding a shotgun and the other a ring of keys.

Phil then opened the trunk of his 1980 Ford Pinto and I watched as a guard and Phil transferred very large silver bars from the armoured car to the back of the Pinto.

The man in sunglasses gave me his business card and said, "I can tell you that the decision to bring the silver bars here was made at the highest levels. I still can't believe that we decided to do it. Originally,



Continued on Page 4

Why Don't Catholics



Spread Ashes?

The Church teaches that we are made in the image and likeness of God and as such our bodies have an inherent dignity and sacredness to them. God has made each of us to be living, breathing, walking, tabernacles to house the Holy Spirit. Keeping this in mind, a helpful way to understand why the Church does not permit the spreading of ashes is to ponder the body God has given us using the analogy of water.

When water is at room temperature, for example, it's a liquid. But when water is heated up until it boils it becomes steam, which is a gas. Whether or not it's a liquid or a gas, it's still water.

We can apply similar logic to the human body that God has given us. At room temperature, the body looks just like ours does now. But, if the body were to be heated up as is done during the process of cremation, the body would eventually become bone and ash. (A big difference with this transformation is that it is final. Unlike water, we cannot change the state back once the body has been cremated. Only God can do this. And He will...at the moment we collectively call the Resurrection of the Dead.)

The great respect the Church has for the deceased should always be evident in the way the cremated remains are treated. This means placement in a worthy container, and all who handle them should do so with care and reverence until final disposition. According to Church tradition scattering cremated remains on the sea, in the air, on the ground, or keeping them in the homes of relatives does not display appropriate reverence.

Some excerpts for this article were taken from a cremation pamphlet by Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services entitled, "Catholics & Cremation – Questions, Issues and Answers". If you would like a copy, please contact the Development Office. If you have additional questions about cremation or funeral pre-planning, please contact Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services directly at 416-733-8544 or 1-800-974-4619 www.catholic-cemeteries.com



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CALL A PRIEST!

If you are admitted to a hospital that is fairly close to your parish, please have a family member call the parish to request a visit from your parish priest. If you don't have any family or are far away from your parish, most hospitals have a "Spiritual Care Department" that you can request Holy Communion or any of the Sacraments through.

A few things to remember:

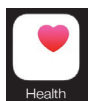
- If you know ahead of time that you will be admitted into hospital for surgery, you can request to have the Sacrament of the Sick administered to you at your parish before your admission into the hospital.
- If it's a medical emergency, upon admission to the hospital identify your religion as Catholic. If you do not disclose that you are Catholic, no priest, deacon or catholic lay minister will be informed and thus will not be able to visit you.
- Consider having a Power of Attorney for Personal Care (PAPC) that also takes your spiritual needs into account. Ask your lawyer to write in your PAPC that you want to receive the Sacraments. Be sure to tell your appointed Attorney this is your wish.
- Consider carrying the card (shown right) requesting the services of a priest in case you arrive unconscious at an

Emergency room. Another option is to wear a bracelet or necklace engraved with a message such as, "In Case of Emergency, Call my Parish Priest XXX-XXX-XXXX." Medical bracelets can also be purchased online and engraved with any message you choose. As first responders and hospital staff tend to read medical bracelets, you may stand a better chance of having your spiritual needs identified.

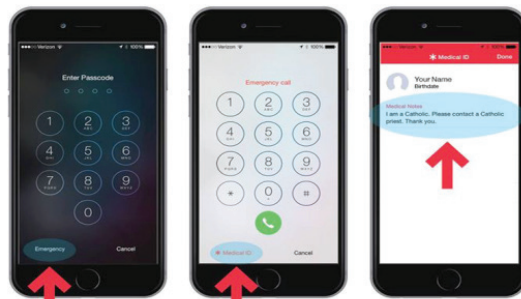
- And finally, if you have a smart phone, consider adding emergency information accessible from the lock screen. Instructions for adding emergency information to an iPhone is at the bottom of the page.

<p>I have executed a Power of Attorney for Personal Care. If I am incapable of making any decisions regarding medical care/treatment, please contact my attorney(s).</p> <p>1 _____ tel: _____</p> <p>2 _____ tel: _____</p>	<p><i>To help you to have your spiritual needs attended to as a Catholic when being admitted to any hospital for any reason or in emergency cases, please fill out this card and attach it to your health card.</i></p> <p>I, _____</p> <p>am a Catholic. If my condition is critical, please call a Catholic Priest immediately to attend to my spiritual needs.</p>
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Adding emergency information to your iPhone



1. Open the Health app on your phone.
2. After verifying your name, tap Next, then Medical Notes and include the note "I am a Catholic. Please contact a Catholic Priest. Thank you."



TO VIEW:
 1. Tap **Emergency** on the **LOCK SCREEN**.
 2. On **EMERGENCY CALL SCREEN**, tap ***Medical ID**.
 3. This and other vital information is available here.

In the event of an emergency, a first responder or other medical professional can access this vital information.



The Legacy Society of the Archdiocese of Toronto

If you have included your parish or favourite archdiocesan charity in your Will or estate plan please let the Development Office know. The Archdiocese of Toronto has created a special Legacy Society as a way to say thank you.

All members of the Legacy Society receive:

- A hand-crafted cross, blessed by the Archbishop of Toronto.
- A personal letter and certificate acknowledging your intention.
- An invitation to the annual Legacy Society Mass and lunch with His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins.

To learn more about the Legacy Society of the Archdiocese of Toronto, please contact the Development Office.

A Priest, an Armoured Car, and a Trunk Load of Silver Bars

(continued from page 1)



Phil wanted to take possession of the bars downtown, right outside of the bank, but that would have caused too much havoc.”

I found out that Phil had rented a safe at a major bank to store his silver. Phil’s belief in the impending collapse triggered his decision to take possession now.

When the transfer was done, the armoured car left and Phil’s car was so weighed down from the silver bars that the back bumper almost kissed the ground. Phil looked at the Priest and said, “Father, I have a long way to travel. Can you bless my car?”

After receiving a blessing, Phil turned to me and said, “When the collapse comes, your silver bars will be ready for delivery.” And with that, Phil drove off, becoming the stuff of legend.

If you have a special gift you would like to donate to your parish or other favourite part of the Church, please contact Quentin Schesnuik. His contact information is below. Thank you and God bless!

Contact us

Your Catholic Legacy, the planned giving newsletter of the Archdiocese of Toronto, is a free publication that is produced twice a year to keep parishioners informed about issues related to estate planning and the many tax-smart and creative ways they can support their parishes and Archdiocesan charities. While all articles are researched and come from reliable sources, you should always consult an advisor before making any gift.



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We encourage you to share this newsletter with a friend or family member.