

Cremation Acknowledgment Form

St. Bernard

311 Washington Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15216

412-561-3300

I understand and acknowledge the following:

1. In the early days of the Church, persecutors burned bodies in mockery and defiance of Christian belief in the resurrection. Today, the Church believes these hostile factors are no longer prevalent. Therefore, the Church will permit cremation as long as it is not chosen for reasons hostile to Catholic teaching, and when there are other good reasons to justify the practice. Choosing cremation for economic, geographic, ecological or family factors are acceptable reasons. Any reason contrary to Christian teaching related to the sacredness of the human body, the resurrection of the body, or eternal life is not acceptable.

2. Canon Law 1176.3 states: "The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed; it does not, however, forbid cremation unless it is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching."

3. The policy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh states:

a) The burial or entombment of the bodies of the dead remains the preferred practice of the Catholic Church.

b) The cremated remains are to be either buried or entombed in a cemetery.

c) It is forbidden that the cremated remains be scattered or remain in the possession of a family member or friend.

4. I have been provided a copy of the St. Bernard Funeral Booklet which explains the options for cremation.

5. I have read and understand the above information and the Church's teaching on cremation.

6. I will ensure that the cremated remains are buried or entombed as soon as possible.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

+Please return this signed form to St. Bernard Parish+