



FUNERAL PLANNING

POLICY

Priests incardinated in the Archdiocese of Miami are encouraged to plan for end of life decisions and for their funeral plans. The Archdiocese of Miami provides assistance in seeking admission to long term care services as needed and provides for burial of the priest in the Priests' Section of the Archdiocesan cemetery of the priest's choice.

Each incardinated priest is encouraged to execute a Living Will, a health care surrogate designation or a designation of durable power of attorney for health care in order that his wishes regarding health care may be respected in the event he becomes unable to make decisions. A copy of the executed document should be filed in the priest's personnel file.

In the event that a priest is in need of admission to assisted living, long term skilled nursing care, or hospice care provided by the various programs of Catholic Health Services, contact may be made to the Chancellors' Office for assistance in evaluation and admission.

The incardinated priest is encouraged to execute a Last Will and Testament to direct his affairs. A copy may be provided for the priest's personnel file. The incardinated priest is requested to provide funeral plans, a copy of which should be placed in his personnel file.

At the time of death, the Archdiocese assists the family and/or estate of the priest if it is his wish to be buried in either of the Priests' sections in the cemeteries of the Archdiocese. The ADOM provides the burial site, vault and the opening and closing of the grave. In the event the family or estate wishes other arrangements at either of the cemeteries, discounted services are available. Contact by the family or designated representative or the funeral home should be made directly to the Director of the cemetery (Our Lady of Mercy, Miami-Dade County; Our Lady Queen of Heaven; Broward County) in order to facilitate arrangements for burial in the Priests' Sections.

Other than the cemetery arrangements identified above, it is the financial responsibility of the priest's estate to provide for the funeral arrangements. In the event that the priest names the Archdiocese of Miami as beneficiary on his life insurance policy, the proceeds of the policy are used to assist the estate in providing for the funeral. If the estate is unable to provide suitable arrangements, contact should be made with the Chancery to seek assistance.

In the event of the funeral of an archbishop or bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami, the Archdiocese may assist the estate of the deceased in providing for funeral arrangements as determined by the Archbishop, Vicar General or Archdiocesan administrator.

Initial: November, 2016
Current: August, 2023