

## 9/11 memorial at Holy Cross Cemetery

# A place to heal on solemn 10th anniversary

BY MICHAEL C. GABRIELE

Editor

NORTH ARLINGTON —Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, making preparations to mark the solemn 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, will dedicate a major outdoor memorial installation at Holy Cross Cemetery, 340 Ridge Rd.—a heartfelt representation of the Twin Towers artistically depicted through steel, stone, stained-glass and titanium.

Archbishop John J. Myers will celebrate Mass at the cemetery's memorial site at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11.

The site is located in the cemetery's "9/11" section, where victims of the terrorist attack are interred, along with police officers, firemen and U.S. soldiers. The memorial site is situated on a hill that offers a view of the lower Manhattan skyline, where the World Trade Center Twin Towers once stood.

Andrew P. Schafer, executive director for Catholic Cemeteries, said there will be a brief, simple unveiling ceremony of the memorial site on May 30 (Memorial Day), following the annual outdoor Mass held at the cemetery.

The installation features stainless steel beams, measuring 20 feet in height, which provide a scale-model version of the Twin Towers. The design in the steel frame includes "gaps" that echo the impact points of the jet planes during the terrorist attack. The gaps are designed to create a "rising cross," which will be highlighted with yellow, orange and red stained glass.

Four etched, blue-tint titanium panels, each measuring 24 by 38 inches and depicting a montage of over 40 images of the attack and the heroism of first responders, will be attached to the stainless steel panels.

The base of the memorial installation is composed of original paver stones from the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, arranged in the shape of a cross. Schafer pointed out these stones carry the "spiritual footprints" of Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, and other dignitaries who visited the Newark cathedral over the years. The installation also includes permanent black-granite bench seating, a flag pole and memorial plaques.

The site represents the creative efforts of various contributors. Artist Bronna A. Butler of Mountainside is the designer of the installation. Edward T. Czuba of South Orange is the architect and planner for the site. Brennan Industrial Contractors Inc., Kearny, serves as the metal fabricator. Horie Corp. of Japan is providing the titanium panels. Ray Clagnan Stained Glass Studio Corp., Toms River, is the supplier of stained glass that will be embedded in the rising cross.

"The 9/11 memorial monument of the Archdiocese of Newark's Catholic Cemeteries is being built to remember those who lost their lives...and honor the many individuals who came to the aid of others in need, during and after the tragedy," Butler wrote.

"There were two kinds of sacrifice during the 9/11 tragedy; the sacrifice of the innocent and the sacrifice of oneself for others," Butler continued. She noted the tragedy is a juxtaposition of the "worst and the best of the human race—the worst hatred next to the greatest love." This contrast represents the hateful motives of the 9/11 masterminds compared with the bravery of firefighters, police officer, EMS workers and fellow victims, "sacrificing their own lives, exemplifying human beings at their best."

She noted that the "rising cross" design element of the installation is meant to symbolize Christ's great love and self-sacrifice for humanity. "The cross, centered in the monument, reminds us that God was present in the midst of the crisis. It invites us to look carefully in order to see the ever-present God.

Sept. 11 is the 10th anniversary of the cataclysmic event, which included the destruction of the Twin Towers, damage to the Pentagon in Washington DC, and the crash of a jet (Flight 93) in a field in Shanksville, Somerset County, PA. According to government estimates, more than 670 New Jerseyans, many of whom resided in the four counties of the Archdiocese of Newark, lost their lives at the Twin Towers.

An article in the Sept. 8, 2010 edition of The Catholic Advocate featured an interview with Father Thomas Iwanowski, a former pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Jersey City, who shared his memories of the fateful day.



Submitted illustration

An architectural drawing illustrates the 9/11 memorial monument, designed by Mountainside artist Bronna Butler, soon to be unveiled at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington. Plaques at the site will carry the words of New Testament passages, offered as contemplative thoughts for visitors to consider. "Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good," one inscription reads, quoting Romans 12:21.