

## Pastor's Corner

### Policy on Cremation, and Evening of Praise

**Policy on Cremation:** The Catholic Church reveres the human body as a great gift from God, recalling that Jesus took on a human body when he became incarnate. In accordance with Scripture and Church teaching, we believe in the resurrection of the body at the end of time (1 Cor. 15:42-44; 1 Jn. 3:2; Nicene Creed).

For centuries, the Catholic Church required the body of a deceased person to be present at the celebration of a funeral. Due to the increasing cost of funerals, in 1997, the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship granted permission for funerals in the U.S. to be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains instead of the body, although the Church's preference still is for the deceased's body to be at the funeral.

Specific conditions were set for having cremated remains at a funeral: a definite plan to inter the remains in a cemetery or mausoleum; no scattering of remains on land, in the air or at sea; no plan for a family member to keep all or part of the remains. The conditions were designed to promote reverent respect for the body as it awaits resurrection.

Because cremations have increased in popularity, I have reprinted a copy of the U.S. Bishops' policy on cremation on page 4 of this bulletin. Hopefully, by reviewing the history and conditions for cremation, we can avoid misunderstanding, disappointment and hurt when someone dies and the family requests cremation.

**Evening of Praise:** During the home visits that Fr. Thien and I made last Fall, several parishioners requested that we bring back the "Evenings of Praise and Adoration" which had been celebrated in our Church in the past.

In response to that request, we have scheduled an Evening of Praise and Adoration for Monday, August 5, from 7-8:30 pm in Church. We will have contemporary praise and worship music from 7-7:30 pm led by Jamie Diliberto and friends. From 7:30 – 8:30 pm, there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with silent prayer time and a guided meditation. During adoration, Fr. Thien and I will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will conclude the evening of praise with reposition of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction.

Please join us for an evening of praising God and help spread the word about this event in the community. Thank you.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe