



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN
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August 9, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the early hours of Saturday, April 25th, St. Joseph's Cemetery was vandalized. More than 300 tombstones were toppled. This act shocked everyone. Families of loved ones buried in this sacred place were traumatized and reacted with hurt, anxiety and anger.

Through the efforts and compassionate response of Darryl Olsen, our recently deceased Cemetery Manager, and the hard work of his staff, these tombstones were restored to their honoured places. Each cemetery staff member was determined to complete this huge task in time for Mother's Day. Grateful families were witness to their tireless efforts and this task was accomplished.

On Sunday, August 22nd, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, I will preside at Mass on the grounds of St. Joseph's Cemetery. I invite and encourage the faithful of the Diocese to be with me as we remember and honour all the faithful departed interred in Cemeteries throughout our Diocese. I also extend an invitation to all people who have friends and relatives buried at St. Joseph's and other cemeteries to come together with us in prayerful remembrance. It is my hope that this Mass will mark the beginning of an annual celebration to be held on the grounds of one of our cemeteries.

On that day you are also invited to tour the recently renovated office facilities at the Cemetery. Staff will be available to answer any questions you may have about the Catholic cemeteries and the services offered.

It is my fervent prayer that Jesus, Who is the Resurrection and the Life, will be our consolation and hope.

Devotedly yours in Our Lord,

+ *Robert Harris*

+Robert Harris
Bishop of Saint John

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