

## Peace of Mind

Selecting and purchasing your memorial space is an important decision. Arranging the details in advance of need gives you peace of mind and shows thoughtful and caring concern for your family.

Preplanning Inurnment niches in the St. Vincent Ferrer Columbarium will assure loved ones that you are at peace with your eternal resting place. Instead of being faced with uncertainty, those dearest to you will be comforted in knowing your wishes have been fulfilled. Within the beautiful setting of the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory is a peaceful and prayerful haven for family members to reflect on the lives of loved ones.

## Memorial Arrangements

Arrangements made for the purchase of a licensed niche are made through the Office of the Columbarium Administrator. When possible this should be done well in advance of need so that your decisions may be made more comfortably, prior to the time of bereavement.

## Cremation

Cremation may be provided at a number of crematories in the area. A simple urn of permanent material is required, and this cost is not included in the purchase price of a niche.

## A Sense of Place

The highly mobile character of today's society often means that the individuals and families can claim no specific geographical location as "home". For those having a special relationship with the Dominican Friars and St. Thomas Aquinas Church, the columbarium at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory provides an identifiable and permanent resting place.

When we are baptized, we are welcomed into God's earthly family. In death, our faith offers us the promise of eternal life. St. Vincent Ferrer Columbarium is a symbol of hope in God and His promise of everlasting life.

## Memorial Identification

The georgian marble niche cover will be engraved with the family name (last name), first name and middle initial, date of birth and date of death.

## Pricing

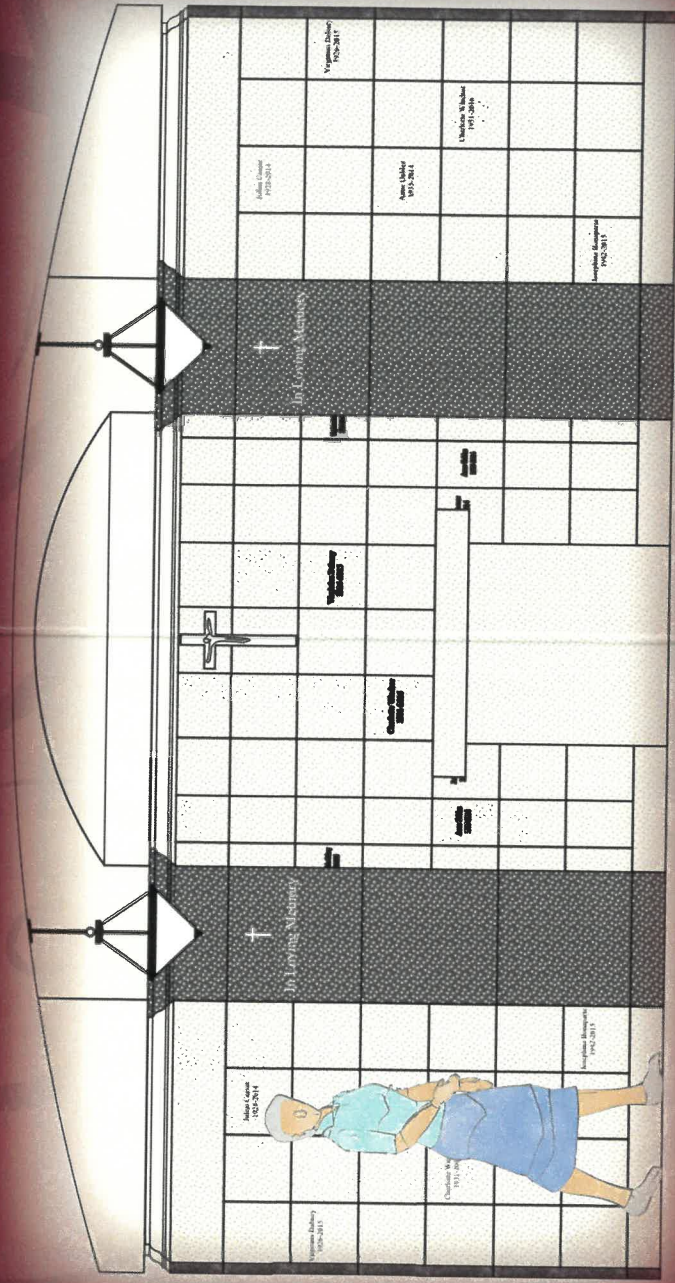
The columbarium niche pricing currently in effect is \$4500.00 for a licensed niche

## Tax Advantages

A portion of each niche purchase will become part of an endowment fund that will provide income for the perpetual care and preservation of the columbarium. The portion of the niche cost which is allocated to the endowment fund is tax deductible. Currently, the tax deductible portion is \$2000.00.

## Maintenance

St. Thomas Aquinas Priory is responsible for the perpetual maintenance of St. Vincent Ferrer Columbarium.



## *The Catholic Church and Cremation*

Many people remain unaware that the Vatican lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics to choose cremation many years ago. In lifting the ban, the Vatican promoted the philosophy that the remains of cremated bodies are to be treated with the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the ground, from the air, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. Respectful final disposition of cremated remains involves inurnment (burial) or entombment. Burial options include the entombment of cremated remains in a columbarium niche. Appropriate worthy containers are proper for cremated remains.

It is always important to be mindful of the therapeutic importance for a family to celebrated the full funeral liturgy with the body of the deceased present. The Catholic Church strongly prefers that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites and that cremation should take place following the liturgy. In all cases, the Church requires that the human remains be treated with due reverence.

## *What is a Columbarium?*

The word "columbarium" comes from the Latin and translates as a compartmentalized house for doves; the gentle birds mentioned in Holy Scripture and recognized as symbols of peace. The Columbarium at St. Thomas Aquinas Priory is a place for reflection and remembrance, a part of the Church's ongoing ministry to both the living and the dead. It is a comfortable place, a place for family and friends to gather in love and remembrance, a consoling link between life and death.

## *St. Vincent Ferrer Columbarium*

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## *St. Vincent Ferrer Columbarium*

"I go to prepare a place for you..." John 14:2