



## The Historic Mausoleum: Questions & Answers

### **What is a columbarium?**

A columbarium is a wall-like structure composed of recesses (niches) where the cremated remains (ashes) of deceased persons are stored in containers (urns), which are sealed and marked with the names of the deceased. As in life, the dead are included as a part of the larger Mission Church community.

### **Who can be buried in the columbarium at The Historic Mausoleum?**

The columbarium is available to all people of faith and good will. It is not limited to Catholics, Christians, or residents of California.

### **I thought that the Catholic Church did not allow cremation?**

The Catholic Church removed the restriction against cremation in 1963, and affirmed this position through revisions to canon law in 1983 and 1989. Cremation is now a dignified and respectful burial option chosen by an increasing number of Catholics, as well as those who are sensitive to the lessened impact that cremation has on the environment.

### **Why did the Franciscan Friars build this columbarium?**

Caring for the dead with respect and compassion has been an essential ministry of the Church for centuries, and here at Old Mission Santa Barbara it has been a tradition for two hundred years. The Franciscan spirit extends to our commitment to honor the dignity and goodness of each human person, living and dead.

### **When should I make burial pre-arrangements?**

The timing is yours, but many have found that making one's own burial plans in advance, allows more time to discuss the details and options with family and loved ones. In addition, making these pre-arrangements is usually a relief and a blessing to those who would otherwise be making these decisions at a time of loss. Pre-arranging can also give peace of mind, knowing that these important details have already been considered, decided and put in writing.

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