

## **Subiaco Abbey Columbarium Questions and Answers**

### **What is a Columbarium?**

A permanent structure with niches or compartments designed to hold the urns containing the ashes of loved ones. The word is derived from the Latin word *Columba*, which means the dwelling place of a dove. When Christians, relegated to Rome's catacombs, began using cliff-side niches to seal away the ashes of the faithful who died, the term "Columbarium" took on its current meaning.

### **Who oversees the continuing operations of the Subiaco Abbey Columbarium?**

- The Columbarium Committee, a group of monks and lay people appointed by the Abbot of Subiaco Abbey
- The Committee will always include at least two monks

### **Who may be inurned in the Columbarium?**

- All applications are subject to approval by the Abbot

### **What is the fee for a double niche (capacity for two urns)?**

- Purchase of niche for single inurnment - \$5,000
  - Includes open/close
- Purchase of niche for two inurnments - \$7,000
- Companion inurnment after initial purchase- additional \$2,500
  - Includes open/close fee and new niche plate engraving
  - Must be family member

### **What other fees are included/not included?**

- Opening/Closing Fees
  - Included
- Niche plate
  - The cost of the niche plate is included in the niche fee, or  
Additional engraving or replacement - \$250
- Not included
  - Cost of cremation
  - Cost of funeral home staff
  - Embalming, if necessary
  - Death notices, certificates, etc.
  - Urns
  - Funeral Liturgies
- Included
  - Perpetual Care of the Columbarium

### **How will the niches be marked?**

- For each person inurned in a niche, the niche plate can be engraved with up to four lines including
  - Legal Name (can include nick name)
  - Date of Birth
  - Date of Death
  - Another date of significance such as date of marriage, ordination, etc.
- Columbarium will arrange for the niche plate

### **Return of Niche?**

- May be sold back only to the Subiaco Abbey Columbarium
- Right to inurnment is non-transferrable
- Return Purchase Price is
  - 75% of original price if request for repurchase made within 3 years of original purchase.
  - 50% of original price if request for repurchase made within 5 years of original purchase
  - 25% of original price if request for repurchase made after 5 and up to 10 years of original purchase
  - After 10 years, the niche purchase price is non-refundable
- Once cremains are placed in the niche, no refunds if cremains are removed
- If unused 5 years after person's death, niche will return to Subiaco Abbey Columbarium with no refund to person's estate or families.

### **Can more than two people be inurned in a single niche?**

- No, a maximum of two inurnments per niche is allowed

### **Payment terms?**

- Full payment must be made within a year. The niche location is selected when payment is completed. The Columbarium Committee will assign a niche if location is not selected by the purchaser.
- Payments can be made by check, credit card, or bank draft
- Terms
  - Monthly or quarterly installments up to a 12 month period only
- No agreements for payment at time of death can be made
- No requests to "save spaces" will be honored
- Purchase of a niche conveys only the right of inurnment of cremains for that space, and does not convey any property ownership rights to the Columbarium

### **Selection of Niche?**

- First come, first served
- Permanently reserved only upon full payment

### **Price Changes?**

- Once contracted, price for niche is set
- Prices for future niche sales are subject to change at discretion of Columbarium Committee

### **Is the niche fee tax deductible?**

- Consult your tax advisor – the Columbarium offers no legal or tax advice

### **Access?**

- The Columbarium will be open daily from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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