

What determines integrity?

Integrity has to deal with honesty and trust. The most important thing in your memorial selection is that you are in no way pressured into buying. Normally people purchase a memorial shortly after the death of a loved one and they can easily make the wrong decision under stress and emotion. Salespeople should be more like a teacher and advisor, providing you with the knowledge to make an intelligent decision. There should never be deception or false promises on the part of the salespeople. How can you tell integrity? Needless to say, it's not easy, but one of the best sources of information is past customers, guarantees, past company history, etc.

The purpose of a memorial is to remember and honor the life of a Catholic person. Simply, a faith filled imagery monument is a lasting way to say "I care." Future generations should be able to tell something about the person's faith from their monument. Time, love and thought should be taken in deciding how to convey the person's life of faith with a memorial. The design work on a memorial is an excellent way to do just that. The memorial is a teachable moment for the church. It is placed in a cemetery – a sacred place. The memorial provides an opportunity to speak to family members and future generations on issues of the Catholic faith and belief in the resurrection.

At the present time Catholic Cemeteries does not sell granite memorials. We give equal service to all monument dealers, but cannot recommend any specific dealer. If a monument dealer says they are affiliated with Catholic Cemeteries, our best advice is to find another dealer. Catholic Cemeteries does sell bronze markers. Our Counselors will be happy to assist you.

Some Common Regrets . . .

1. A memorial should represent a family, a group of individuals buried in the cemetery lot. There's a tendency to "over load" the monument with memorialization dedicated to the burial of the first individual in the lot. Often the regret comes after the second burial or at a later time.

2. A memorial should be a lasting gift. Buying because it's time to or because it's something still not done may not be the best response. Trying to meet a holiday or death or birth date anniversary deadline places additional unnecessary pressure on you, your family, and the memorial company. Use the holidays and family gathering time to talk with family members about the deceased, the memorial as it represents the entire family, the memorial in terms of our Catholic faith and its teachings.

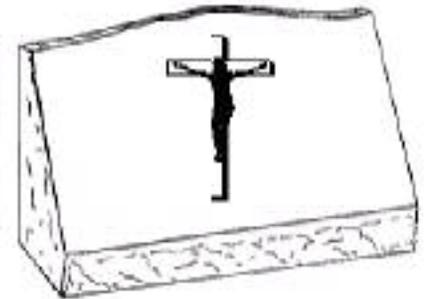
3. *Seeing or Buying Something inappropriate or not permitted...*

The monument company may sell memorials to more than one cemetery. Just because they have it or just because they can make it does not mean it is permitted in a Catholic cemetery. The cemetery maintains memorial rules and regulations. A summary is available at the cemetery counter. A complete set of rules are also on display at the counter and also can be found in a pdf format at www.holyroodcemetery.org. These resources can also provide you with a list of approved epitaphs for cemetery memorials.

4. Walk the cemetery grounds, specifically the area where the deceased is buried, to learn about the type of memorial permitted. The lot size often determines the memorial size permitted. Here you can see memorials in the environment they will be placed rather than a well lighted show room or glossy brochure. How will that monument look after it leaves the memorial company?

Holy Rood Cemetery	516-334-7990
Queen of All Saints Cemetery	631-234-8297
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery	631-732-3460

Catholic Cemeteries



Informational Guide to Purchasing A Memorial

Catholic Cemeteries
PO Box 182
Westbury NY 11590

How do I purchase a memorial?

This brochure is intended to help you understand what is involved in buying a memorial. Naturally, when you and I make a decision to buy something, we don't like doing it when we don't know what we are buying. Often the first question we ask is "How much is it?" We do this because we can at least compare prices.

How much will it cost?

The price of your memorial is determined by three main factors:

Size - Color - Finish

It should be noted that these are the common items that determine price. Specific dealers may offer pricing structures differently. Many companies have extra charges in addition to these such as delivery, installation at the cemetery, carving design, or custom piece work etc.

Size – Size of memorial is the main factor in the cost of the production. Naturally the larger the memorial the more time it takes to manufacture. The cost increases with more weight and surface area of granite that has to be cut, polished or contoured.

Color – Color is another factor in cost of a memorial. Granite comes from all over the world, overseas and throughout the United States. However, a large amount of granites are quarried in the Midwest and in Vermont. Naturally, granite colors that are quarried in the Midwest and Vermont are less expensive than the colors that come from overseas and out of this region. Thus, transportation and handling significantly affect the cost of a memorial. Also certain colors of granites are harder and take much longer to cut, shape and polish thus adding to the cost.

Finish – How much of the surface of the granite is polished and specially contoured also affects the cost. Polishing adds to the cost of a memorial because of the labor hours and materials required to do the polishing. Thus, the more area that requires polishing, the greater the cost is. Whereas, surfaces that are left with a natural rock finish are less expensive.

How do you determine quality?

Quality naturally describes workmanship and care taken in manufacturing a product, whether its furniture, a home or memorials. There are five easy ways to compare quality of a memorial:

Granite Quality - Lettering Quality**Carving Quality - Design Quality****Installation Quality**

1. **Granite Quality** - Granite quality is determined by hardness, uniformity and clarity. Hardness determines how well the granite can be polished and how resistant it is to the elements of nature. The harder the granite, the better the quality. Uniformity is determined in the granite's grain structure. One area of the granite surface should look the same as another area. There should be no knots, streaks or veins that scar the monuments appearance. Clarity is simply how clear and sharp the color is in the granite. The granite should not be muddy looking in appearance. The color of granite is determined by the different mineral contents. Granite is similar to wood, it comes in various grades of quality.

2. **Lettering Quality** - Lettering quality is determined mainly on how deep the lettering is cut into the granite. Also, there are many different types of lettering styles available: some work well on certain colors, while others do not. Durability and contrast are key elements of lettering quality.

3. **Carving Quality** - Carving quality differs greatly between granite companies. Almost all companies do two-dimensional carving (commonly called flat carving), whereas very few do three-dimensional carving. Naturally, three-dimensional carvings vary depending on the skill and experience of the craftsman.

4. **Design Quality** - Design quality deals primarily with artistic appearance of a memorial. Is there balance between space and design? Have you used space efficiently and planned for future burials.

5. **Installation Quality** - Installation quality is determined by how straight and level a memorial is set in the cemetery. Is the monument sealed together completely so it does not tip over? Once the setting is complete, is the lot cleaned up and left in good shape? These are just a few things that you need to be aware of with regard to the setting of your memorial.

What determines service?

Service naturally deals with how much time it takes from the time you buy your memorial to the time it is installed. Normal delivery ranges from 6 to 8 weeks. However, service entails much more than time. Service deals with selection from a large range of colors and designs, personal consultation, servicing problems in the future, adding final inscriptions on the memorials when needed, etc. *Delivery time is longer for custom order work.*

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