

## Cemeteries

Chapter 306 of the Minnesota Statutes governs the legal matters pertaining to cemeteries. When considering the sale, transfer, or other material changes to cemetery ownership or management, a qualified attorney is to be consulted.

A parish cemetery must be managed and operated in accord with the Minnesota statutes and any applicable diocesan policies. Funds received through lot sales or donations to the cemetery must always be used solely for the upkeep, improvement, and beautification of the cemetery. They may not be used for other purposes by the parish corporation.

If a parish changes its status in a way that affects the management of its cemetery, a successor corporation (usually a neighboring parish) must assume the management of the cemetery. That successor corporation is to receive all the records and funds pertaining to the cemetery and shall use such funds only for the upkeep, improvement, and beautification of the cemetery in question. The rights and obligations of existing lot owners must remain intact upon such changes in management.

If 2 or more churches merge and currently they have annuities for their cemeteries using the church ID# (the cemetery is not a separate entity) and a new corporation or entity is formed getting a new ID# and you dissolve their current corporation. How will this then be handled for the cemeteries. The annuities will stay attached to the cemetery, and cemeteries are always attached to a particular parish, using that parish ID number. Such as with Padua, the bishop decided that this cemetery would be moved under St. Donatus. That church receives the cemetery funds and is responsible for the care of that cemetery.