

**Cremation
Circular 2015-07**

To: All Parish Priests

Regarding cremation of the deceased, The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has recently (7 November 2014) published a draft document stating:

1. Following an ancient Christian tradition, burial remains the most appropriate way of expressing our faith and hope in the resurrection of the body.
2. Because of sanitary, economic or social considerations, cremation is allowed without negating the Christian esteem owed to the remains of the deceased nor violating the explicitly stated or the reasonable inferable wishes of the deceased.
3. When cremation is chosen, the ashes of the faithful must normally be laid to rest in a sacred place: that is, a cemetery, or a church, or an area set aside for this purpose called Columbarium.
4. Reservation of ashes in the home (residence), if so allowed by the Local Conference of Bishops for local social, economic and cultural reasons, requires that the ashes be treated with respect and fitting conditions for their reservation.
5. Never to be permitted is the scattering the ashes in the air, in land, at sea, or in some other ways like using them as mementos or pieces of jewelry.
6. When, for reasons contrary to the Christian Faith, the deceased has requested for cremation and the scattering of their ashes, a Christian Funeral must be denied to that person.

Since this is only a draft, it is open for comments and observations one can direct either to my office or to the CBCP or to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, 28 February 2015.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Reynaldo Percival S. Flores
Chancellor