

MEMORIALS

Remembering our loved ones . . .



Annette and Louis Giove
Not for just an hour, not for just a day
Not for just a year, but ALWAYS...
We love and miss you, Mom and Dad.
Linda, Marianne and Tony



Joseph J. Blas
2/9/1949 - 12/11/2017
My Joey, a special joyful gift to me from God,
I treasure for my life and will be
eternally grateful.
Your wife of 47 years, Norma Nieves Blas



Valentino Nicola Marinelli
To our son, Valentino Nicola Marinelli
We love you and miss you more than any words
can say. May all the Angels and Saints watch
over you, and your heart filled with love in Heaven.
Love, Daddy, Mommy and Big Sister Nill



Randhava "Muffy" Nathasingh
3/31/1967 - 9/24/2017
Gone but not forgotten.
Forever in our hearts you will remain.
Radha, Alexia, and Andrew



Mary Ronski
7/12/1922 - 1/18/2013
"You were right Mom".



Alan Michael Tabone
7/8/1953 - 5/26/2007
Dad and Brother
Gone 21 years and never Forgotten
God has you in his keeping.
Always in our hearts.



Angela and Alphonso Tabone
You are together in Heaven
and in God's keeping.
Always in our hearts.

Technology Slowly Takes a Virtual Seat in Funeral Planning

▲ by Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In an age where people order groceries, plan vacations, find love or news updates online, it should be no surprise that some aspects of funeral planning are also slowly making use of – although not quite embracing – technology.

It's happening in small steps, in other words, not at warp speed.

A Gradual Evolution

Funeral homes are primarily still places where people actually sit down with a funeral director and plan the wake, funeral service and burial for their loved one. They also choose necessary purchases, pay the often costly bill and fill out plenty of forms including one to obtain a death certificate.

In recent years, more funeral homes have set up websites offering details of the services they provide but prices are not usually listed.

These sites often provide checklists of things bereaved families should consider and resources for dealing with grief.

Funeralone, a technology and consultation firm for funeral homes based in Detroit, Mich., urges modern funeral homes to tap into social media not only to be competitive in today's market but to provide a service for families to connect or to find support in their grief.

A 2012 blog on the company's website lamented that one in five funeral homes were still not online, and less than half of funeral homes were using social media.

But a 2015 online search by this reporter found a number of funeral homes are at least testing the waters of new technology.

For example, many funeral home websites advertise that provide memorial videos with music and photos of the deceased that can be shown at the funeral homes. Many homes also offer, for a fee, to livestream the funeral or vigil service for out-of-town guests unable to attend in person.

Some parishes have their own media

ministry and already livestream Sunday Masses or other events so family members should check with what their parish provides before lining up this service with a funeral home.

An App For That

Another technological newcomer to funeral and burial planning is apps such as iFuneral where people can identify personal decisions about how they want their own funeral, thus leaving out the guesswork for grieving family members.

Today there are online memorials and places to light virtual candles for the deceased. Families are also using crowdfunding websites seeking charity donations or help with burial costs.

But will technology's entrance into the very personal and often grief-ridden

work of funerals have a negative effect? It's still too early to tell, Carla Sofka, a professor of social work at Siena College in Albany, New York, told The Atlantic magazine in 2014.

One thing Sofka, who has been studying the combination of technology and grief since the mid-1990s, does know is that people who watch funerals online still need that personal connection and should reach out to others and share stories about the

deceased, not just view the service in isolation.

And as with any use of modern technology that makes an event more accessible or easier to plan, the basics of what is happening and why can't be forgotten with the speed of the WiFi connection.

Distinct Purpose

Funerals, after all, have a very distinct purpose. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in its website section on bereavement and funerals, at usccb.org, emphasizes the significance of how the church mourns and buries its dead.

"Through private prayer and public funeral rites, we strengthen our faith and hope, comfort those who mourn, and bury the bodily remains of the deceased with care befitting what was the temple of the Holy Spirit."

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