

Our Lady of Providence

*Dedicated to all babies and their families
Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockford
8616 W State Road
Winnebago, IL 61088
(815) 965-1450*



In 1996, Saint Anthony Medical Center and Calvary Catholic Cemetery jointly opened a section in Calvary Cemetery for babies born before 20 weeks gestation. The approximate 6400 square foot section is reserved only for babies that died 19 weeks into gestation or less because of miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy. Since its inception, of miscarriage and ectopic pregnancies has help-d many families to reconcile their loss.

Our Lady of Providence burial site at Calvary Cemetery offers a family a place to bury the remains of their baby and an opportunity for memorialization. It is open to families of all faiths. The burial site and service are free. Although the grave of the baby may not be marked with a marker, Calvary provides memorialization for a cost of \$150.00 that includes the baby's name and birth year on a granite tablet.

We also offer parents of past miscarriages the opportunity to memorialize the loss of their baby at the site. Many parents have used this memorial to bring closure to a past miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy.

A Barre granite memorial, depicting Our Lady of Providence holding Christ as a baby, highlights the area. A large granite tablet on either side of Our Lady has etchings of baby names and the year of the death for parents who wish to memorialize. After five years, the original granite memorial tablets have been filled. In 2001, two new "wings" were erected to hold more memorial names. A new granite bench has been added, along with black granite vases, and a bronze angel, holding a baby in his arms. The special significance of this bronze angel is that it is a boy angel, in acknowledgement of all the fathers who have lost their babies.

For information about memorialization, contact the Catholic Cemetery Office, 815-965-1450, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am -3:30 pm.

We ask that Social Service departments at each hospital make it known to the parents of miscarriage or ectopic pregnancies to arrange for a Calvary burial they may contact a funeral home of choice. If another funeral home is unable to accommodate the family, call Fitzgerald Funeral Home at 226-2273, who will volunteer their services at a nominal cost.

Our Lady of Providence Section was dedicated May 26, 1996.



God Loves Children

*When God calls little children to dwell with Him above,
We mortals always question the wisdom of his love,
For no heartaches compare with the death of one small child
Who does so much to make this world seem wonderful and mild.*

*Perhaps God tires of calling the aged to His fold
And so He picks a rosebud before it can grow old.*

*God knows how much we need them and
So he takes but a few
To make the land of heaven more beautiful to view,
Believing this is difficult,
still somehow we must try.
The saddest word that mankind knows
will always be goodbye.
And so when little ones depart,
We who are left behind
Must realize God Loves Children –
Angels are hard to find.*

Author unknown