

## **Mary's Children Cemetery**

### **Burial Eligibility Policy**

#### **Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center**

Adopted by Mary's Children Board of Directors: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Effective Date: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **1. Authority and Purpose**

Mary's Children Cemetery is a private Catholic cemetery owned and governed by Mary's Children, Inc. and located at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center. This policy is adopted by the Board of Directors to define burial eligibility, preserve the sacred character of the cemetery, and ensure fidelity to the mission of the retreat center and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

The cemetery exists as a place of Christian burial, prayer, and remembrance for those closely united to the religious and apostolic mission of Mary's Children, Inc. and Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center.

### **2. Private Cemetery Status**

Mary's Children Cemetery is not a public cemetery. Burial rights are not offered for sale to the general public, and interment is permitted only for individuals who meet the eligibility criteria set forth in this policy and who receive formal approval.

### **3. Eligible Persons**

Burial is limited to individuals who have demonstrated a direct, substantial, and enduring relationship with Mary's Children, Inc and Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center.

#### **A. Franciscan Friars**

Members of the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate in good standing at the time of death.

#### **B. Members of the Mission of the Immaculate Mediatrix (MIM)**

Members in good standing of the Mission of the Immaculate Mediatrix, a public association of the faithful attached to the religious Institute of the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate.

#### **C. Long-Time Volunteers**

Lay persons who have provided long-term, faithful, and substantial volunteer service. Eligibility requires review and approval.

#### **D. Long-Time Financial Supporters**

Lay persons who have demonstrated exceptional and sustained financial support essential to the mission. Eligibility requires review and approval.

#### **4. Approval Requirements**

All burials require prior written approval by the Board of Directors or its designated representative. Approval is granted on a case-by-case basis and does not establish precedent.

#### **5. Catholic Funeral and Burial Norms**

All burials shall be conducted in accordance with the rites and norms of the Roman Catholic Church. Cremated remains may be interred in accordance with Church teaching. Scattering of ashes is not permitted.

#### **6. Discretion and Final Authority**

Burial in Mary's Children Cemetery is a privilege, not a right. The Board of Directors retains final discretion in all burial decisions.

#### **7. Amendments**

This policy may be amended or rescinded by the Board of Directors at any duly convened meeting.

Board President: Deacon Ed Walker      Date: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Secretary: Julia Batchelor                      Date: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026