



CATHOLIC
CEMETERIES
& MORTUARIES

LOS ANGELES | SANTA BARBARA | VENTURA

September, 2023

Dear Community Members,

We are writing to inform you about the restoration of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Cemetery on East Villanova Road. The cemetery holds great historical significance. From 1912 to the late-1940s burials took place under the auspices of the local parish, but the cemetery has been inactive since then. There is very limited historical information about the cemetery even with various efforts to find information locally or from those who might have had a connection to the cemetery. We welcome any records or historical photos that community members may have to share.

We are grateful that groups and individuals from the parish community have offered their time over the years to help maintain the grounds including the Knights of Columbus. Recognizing the need for restoration and in response to the Catholic community of Ojai, who have highlighted in recent years a need for burial accommodations in the Valley, we want to provide safe access to the cemetery, prevent further deterioration and also offer a new columbarium, accessible pathways, and space for parking.

We are committed to preserving the cemetery's integrity; therefore, the project will not involve the relocation of any graves and no dirt or rock will be removed from the cemetery during the process. We have taken and will continue to take precautions to ensure that human remains are not disturbed or impacted during the restoration.

As caretakers of our burial grounds, we consider their maintenance a ministry of the Church. It is our heartfelt hope that the restoration of the cemetery will serve the needs of our local faithful for many years to come. If you have any questions about this project, please do not hesitate to reach out to by email at Contact@CatholicCM.org or phone at (213) 637-7815.

Yours sincerely,

Brian McMahon
Director of Community Outreach
Catholic Cemeteries & Mortuaries
Archdiocese of Los Angeles