

Disposal of Altar Stones with Relics

Policy No. 825

Policy Statement: Altar stones with relics will be buried in a Catholic cemetery.

Intent of Policy: To ensure that altar stones with relics will be disposed of properly to avoid profanation.

Definition: An altar stone is a single unbroken piece of stone (or marble) on which are cut five Greek crosses, one at each corner, and one in the middle. The sepulcher of relics is sealed in the altar stone.

Relic is a part of a beatified or canonized person, or something they touched, or something touched to them. It is entitled to veneration.

- Procedure:***
- a) Altar stones with relics can be removed from altars and buried in the Catholic cemetery of any parish near the central cross of the cemetery.
 - b) Altar stones with relics can also be sent to the Archives at the Catholic Pastoral Centre with a note on their provenance in view of eventual appropriate disposal.
 - c) If possible, the identity of the relics should be made known to the Archdiocesan Archivist.