

Amid Cathedral Rubble, Haitians Celebrate Church Leaders' Funerals



Many Church officials attended the funerals of Haiti's Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot and Msgr. Charles Benoit, vicar general, who were killed in the earthquake.

Amid the rubble of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Haitians celebrated the lives of the Archbishop and Vicar General of Port-au-Prince, both of whom were killed in the country's earthquake.

Church officials - including some from the United States - joined ordinary Haitians January 23 for the funerals of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, who died when the impact of the quake hurled him from a balcony, and Msgr. Charles Benoit, the vicar general whose

body was pulled from the Cathedral debris. They were among more than 150,000 Haitians killed in the magnitude 7 quake.

Archbishop Louis Kebreau of Cap-Haitien, president of the Haitian Bishops' Conference, celebrated the funeral Mass, and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Lafontant of Port-au-Prince delivered the homily. Haiti President Rene Preval was among those in attendance.



Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, destroyed in the earthquake. All that remained intact was the statue of Christ on the Cross (see front cover).

“The Church in the United States stands with you, and we will do all that we can to help....”

— Francis Cardinal George

New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, who represented the U.S. bishops at the Mass, read a message on behalf of Chicago Cardinal Francis George, U.S. Bishops' Conference president. Cardinal George's message to the Haitians was contained in a letter addressed to Archbishop Kebreau.

“The Church in the United States stands with you,” he said, adding that the U.S. Church was committed to “doing everything we can so that you may rebuild and renew and begin again your lives of faith and family and service to Haiti.”

Archbishop Dolan, who also serves as chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, was accompanied by Msgr. David Malloy, general secretary of the U.S. Bishops' Conference.

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, FL, and Oblate Father Andrew Small, director of the U.S. Bishops' Church in Latin America office, also attended.

The Archbishop and the Vicar General were buried in Lilavois Cemetery in the Haitian capital.

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More about Haiti and the work being done by Fr. Rick on page 14.

Welcome to Spring

— by Keith Hoverstad



The first step is to pick up any large debris after the snow. Here the Z900 does the job.

This past winter had its share of record cold temperatures and snowfall events. Now, as winter comes to a close; and as spring approaches, it is the perfect time to begin to plan and prepare for growing green, lush healthy turf.

Spring is a very important season in the health of your turf. After the rigors of winter, it needs careful attention as soon as the days start to lengthen and the grass starts to grow. Giving the turf the care it needs NOW will ensure the best possible results throughout the year. Restoring turf from its winter dormancy can be a challenge for many, but can easily be achieved through proper planning, accurate product selection, application and timing. Let's get started....

Clean-up

The first step in preparation is to pick up any large debris that appears after the snow melts. This includes tree branches, rocks, and blown trash left-over after melting snow. You may also have Christmas decorations requiring removal. Use utility vehicles or tractors with towed carts and several workers to speed up collection.

calcs can be more readily absorbed and to help the turf stand up. Wide, pull-behind harrow carts can be used for light raking, or smaller harrow attachments (sometimes referred to as "dethatching attachments) can be mounted ahead of mowers. This lifts up light debris to the top of the turf.

Follow up by a pass with a vacuum unit. Several options are available. For large areas, pull behind turf vacuums

ground. There is only a minor sacrifice in maneuverability as the vacuum system adds length but not much width to the existing mower.

Set the mower deck higher so little of the grass is actually cut. The primary function is vacuuming debris. Have a trailer nearby to dump the captured debris. The option of raking and vacuuming prepares turf for a faster spring start and sets the stage for an optimal appearance. Easter and Memorial Day come quickly. However if budget and manpower are constraints, turf will awaken from its dormancy and push to the top. It just takes longer.

Mowing

If you skip raking and vacuuming, you'll want to start mowing shortly after the turf shows growth. Before starting, make sure your mower blade is sharp – a sharp blade will cut cleanly (not tearing the grass blade which causes tip injury – and gives the turf a brownish appearance).

It is very important in early spring that you set the mowing height quite high taking no more that one quarter of the length of the plant off at a time, otherwise the lawn will become stressed. A "little and often" approach to mowing is better in spring. As the turf grows faster and we move further into spring, increase the mowing frequency and gradually reduce the height of cut to give the desired finish.



Part of Spring cleanup is Aeration which allows more nutrients, air and water into the root system.

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It's time to clean up and spruce up your cemetery grounds. Included in the March issue of *Catholic Cemetery* are valuable hints on that topic and much more. Check our your March magazine.