

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Accepted Proposal from the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee

Pet Memorials at St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee is proposing that St. Martin of Tours incorporate blessings and memorializing of our pets who are deceased. A Memorial Fund will be established in honor of Jim and Rita Murphy's beloved Sadie. The money in the Sadie Murphy Memorial Fund will be available as needed. Donors to the fund will be offered an engraved marker with the pet's name. (up to 30 letters)



The Fund will accept any donation amount.

The minimum donation for an engraved marker will be \$20. Recommended donation amounts are \$40 and \$100.

OVERVIEW

The Annual Blessing of the Animals honors the human-animal bond. We propose to add memorializing and remembering our pets, both living and deceased on this day and every day.

On a day dedicated to honoring the human-animal bond, pet lovers from throughout the region are invited to gather in honor of St. Francis of Assisi with The Blessing of the Animals at St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church in South Omaha on the first Sunday in October. We propose to honor our pets, both living and deceased on this day and every day.

So, God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:21 ESV

Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?' Job 35:11 ESV

The Objective

To help pet parents heal and honor the life of a pet.

- Need #1: Losing a beloved animal companion is one of the most difficult things a pet parent can go through.
- Need #2: The best way to honor a pet who has crossed the Rainbow Bridge is to celebrate their spirit and their memory.
- Need #3: Commemoration of a pet's death — or the late life of a pet — is a great way to heal yourself and honor your pet's life

The Opportunity

We already have a columbarium and a plaque. We have the perfect place to have a memorial to our non-human friends and family.

- Goal #1: Upcycle the old Columbarium plaque (Plaque).
- Goal #2: Get approval from the Vicar to go forward with the Sadie Murphy Memorial Fund.
- Goal #3: Have the Markers engraved and assemble the plaque using funds provided by the Murphy Family.

- Goal #4: Bless the Plaque and install in the Chapel.
- Goal #5: Add an announcement to our Web site, Facebook and Newsletter.

The Solution

Commemoration of a pet's death — or the late life of a pet — is a great way to heal yourself and honor your pet's life

- Recommendation #1: People can make a Donate to The Sadie Murphy Memorial Fund in honor of their pets.
- Recommendation #2: People can get an engraved Marker on the Plaque or simply be added to the memorial list for The Blessing of the Animals.
- Recommendation #3: Let it be known that this service is available.

Timeline for Execution

The timeline for this project is three weeks from approval.

Dedication will be January 24, 2020.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Result #1: The Sadie Murphy Memorial Fund will help pet parents heal and honor their pets.
- Result #2: The Fund will be self-sustaining.
- Result #3: The Fund income may be used for improvements to St. Martin of Tours. Example: Funds may be used to purchase a storage shed for equipment and gardening supplies.
- Result #1: The Fund will help pet parents heal and honor their pets.
- Result #2: The Fund will be our version of a Rainbow Residency.
- Result #3: The Fund will increase the sense of goodwill, acceptance, friendship and healing for which St. Martin of Tours is known.

Conclusion

Animals and humans play different roles both in the Bible and in our world today. It is clear from the text that our lives have been interconnected with the lives of animals from the very start of creation, and that they can show us new ways of understanding God.