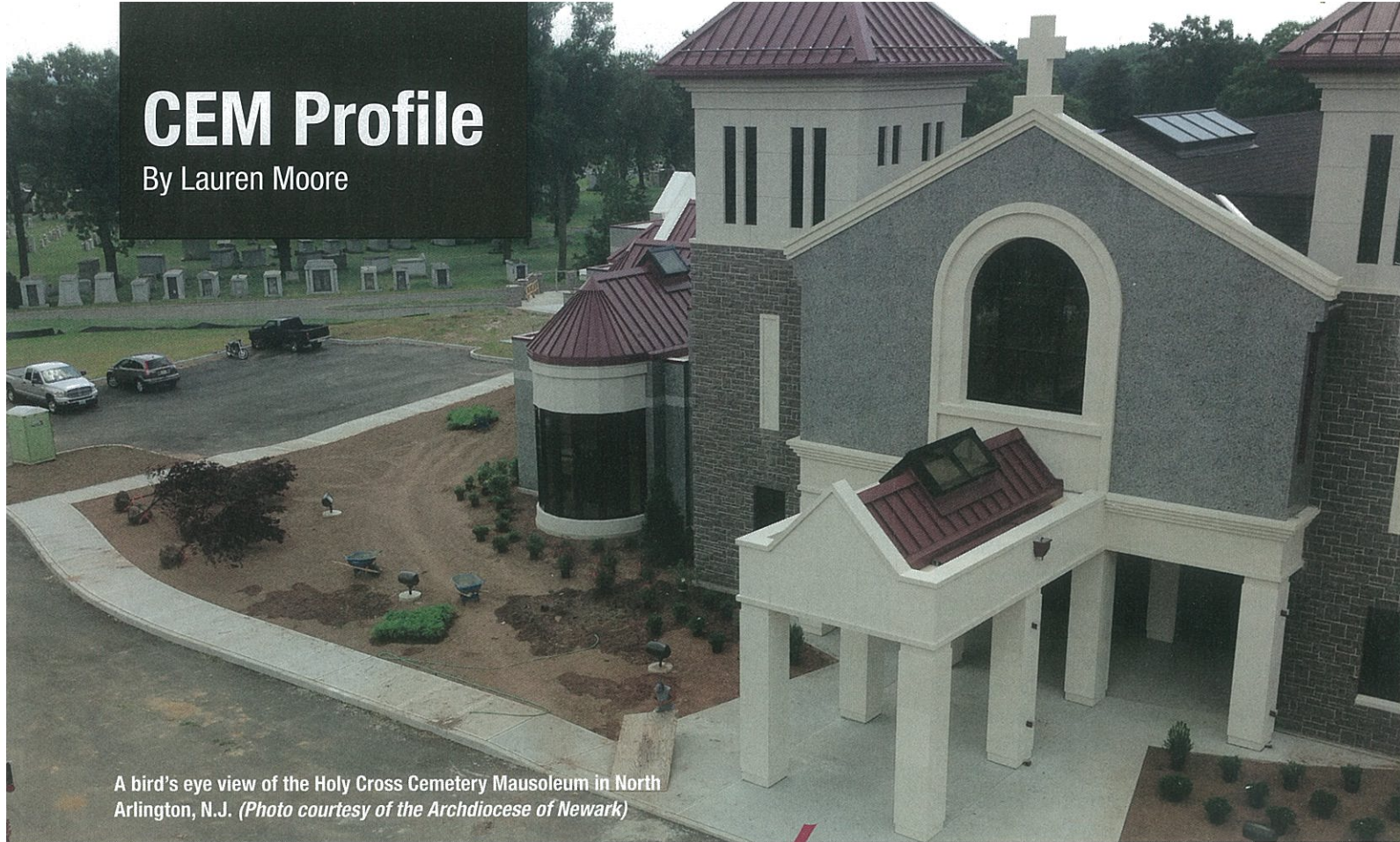


CEM Profile

By Lauren Moore



A bird's eye view of the Holy Cross Cemetery Mausoleum in North Arlington, N.J. (Photo courtesy of the Archdiocese of Newark)

mausoleum **MUSEUM**

.....

There's certainly no shortage of art museums and galleries in the Northeast. New York City alone boasts some of the most popular collections of art in the world, but just 10 miles west of the city, Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington, N.J., is also sure to attract art lovers from all over.

Home to what will soon be the largest Catholic mausoleum in the country, Holy Cross Cemetery is embarking on a \$20 million expansion of its already sizable building, which will contain 35,747 burial spaces and 90 major works of art. The mausoleum was originally established in 1979, and over the years, it's become more popular, according to Joseph Verzi, assistant executive director of the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark, which operates Holy Cross

Cemetery. "In the beginning, less than 5 percent of families chose the mausoleum. Thirty-five percent of burials are in the mausoleum now," he said. "Through the years we've had to expand the program, and now we're doing the last addition to the building."

Part of the expansion project will include six mosaic murals depicting the Book of Genesis – namely, the six days in which God created the world. Verzi said the Book of Genesis can be hard to depict. "You don't see too much

artwork that is designed from Genesis," he said.

The Rev. Thomas Dente, director of the archdiocesan Office of Divine Worship, came up with the idea to depict scenes from the Book of Genesis. "I think it's a nice way to tie in creation and the divine. People are becoming more and more concerned with the environment, they love nature and the world, and it's a nice way to tie the two together," Dente said.

Dente added that, in many of the