

133 bodies to be exhumed

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THE remains of 133 Irish women are to be exhumed and cremated at Glasnevin cemetery in what is believed to be the biggest mass exhumation in Irish history.

The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity are selling off the private cemetery at their High Park convent in Drumcondra on Dublin's northside to cover debts incurred after they set up a centre for women in need, according to the Catholic press office.

The bodies are to be taken from

the private cemetery which was set up in the 1880s as a burial ground for women who were taken in by the convent after being abandoned by their families. A number of the women worked in the laundry when it was operated as a business by the convent. It has been closed for some years.

The order applied for permission to sell the graveyard because of the large debt accrued by the building of the new centre. The

Catholic Church granted permission for the exhumations and the sale of the land, as did Dublin Corporation and the Department of the Environment.

Sisters at the High Park Convent declined last night to comment on the exhumation and the sale of the land. "This undertaking is a very private one," a member of the order said. She added that the nuns had been misquoted by the news media.

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