

We celebrate a funeral liturgy to honor our friends and relatives. As Catholics, we celebrate the funeral at Church to commend our loved one to the Lord, trusting in his promise to prepare a place for us in heaven.

You have been asked to give the Words of Remembrance. Realizing that you are dealing with your own grief we would like to offer the following:

At Holy Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows Churches we allow one Words of Remembrance at the funeral. **The length should not be longer than five (5) minutes.** If the family and friends would like to have more opportunities to speak, a small service at the funeral home at the end of calling hours presents a nice opportunity for this sharing or at a reception following the Mass.

Tips for good Words of Remembrance

- Do . . . *Pray about it*
- Do . . . The Words of Remembrance should present the person's life in light of our gospel values (How did he/she model good living?) The funeral liturgy is a solemn occasion. Save other stories for the reception.
- Do . . . You should have the entire Words of Remembrance **written down**. This allows you to
 - Organize your thoughts
 - Time it
 - Rehearse it before others
 - Give a copy to the Family and Friends

Things NOT to say at a Funeral Mass

- Don't . . . Feel you have to accept this responsibility. If you do not feel emotionally or otherwise able to deliver the Words of Remembrance, please let the family know. You may wish to offer to help in another way.
- Don't . . . Tell a long story or several short stories. Experience shows that long stories are often best saved for later in a more individual setting.
- Don't . . . Think you have to tell everything there is to know about the person. Pick one theme and focus on it.
- Don't . . . Tell inside jokes that will not be understood by some, use inappropriate language, discuss personal items such as drinking or drugs or stories containing sexual content/inuendo.

When you arrive at the church or funeral home, introduce yourself to a member of the parish staff. The staff person can show you where to stand and tell you when you will be speaking.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Funeral Line at 585-208-3422.



*The Words of Remembrance:
Within the Funeral Liturgy
A Celebration of the Risen Christ*

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

Romans 6:3-5

*“The inclusion of Words of Remembrance in the 1989 Order of Christian Funerals is permitted, but not required, and is at the discretion of the pastor/administrator. These Words of Remembrance may occur at the Vigil of the Deceased (Cf. OCF, 62, 80), at a reception following the Funeral Liturgy, at the conclusion of the Rite of Committal at the cemetery, or at the Funeral Liturgy. (Cf. OCF, 170). The provision that “a member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased” (OCF, 80, 170, 197) has often led to a confusion between these Words of Remembrance and a eulogy. A eulogy recounts some or all of the significant events in the life of the deceased. Biographical in nature, a eulogy tends to be lengthy and similar to a curriculum vitae. However, **Words of Remembrance provide briefly some insight into the Catholic faith and values of the deceased as seen through the lens of one or two examples from his/her life.**” This is taken from the Diocesan Sacramental Guideline, Office of the Bishop.*

**Our Mother of Sorrows
And
Holy Cross Churches**