

*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 or two individuals, who could be a family or friend to give the Words of Remembrance at the Mass. **The length should not be longer than five (5) to seven (7) minutes.** If you have more family and friends that would like to speak, may we suggest at the funeral home at the end of calling hours presents a nice opportunity for this sharing or at the Cemetery, or at the reception following the Mass and/or Burial.*

### **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 reverent 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 to Avoid**

- Don't . . . Feel you must 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 must 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 or use inappropriate language.
- Don't tell stories about drinking, alcohol, sex, gambling, or breaking the law.

***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.***



*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 Words of Remembrance:  
How to Honor the Deceased at Holy  
Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows  
Churches*