

# Funeral Preparation

Name of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Celebrant \_\_\_\_\_

Organist \_\_\_\_\_ Cantor \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Minister (if needed) \_\_\_\_\_

Servers \_\_\_\_\_

Placing Pall/Cross on the Coffin

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Speaking on Behalf of the Family (Words of Remembrance) \_\_\_\_\_

Reading #1 (pages 26-34) Page \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm Page \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Reader \_\_\_\_\_  
(If there is no cantor) (page 35-44)

Reading #2 (pages 45-55) Page \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of the Gifts

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn Selection

When (if there is a preference)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Reception \_\_\_\_\_

## **SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED (Words of Remembrance)**

1. These guidelines will help anyone who is asked to give a remembrance of the deceased at a funeral vigil, funeral proper or at a committal. The person giving the remembrance should be sensitive to the liturgical tone set by the ritual and worship space.
2. You have to be aware of your own limitations. While it is an honor to be asked to give a reflection you may decline. It may be that the task is too emotional or difficult. Everyone will respect your decision if you wish to decline the invitation. You may want to ask someone (who is willing and able) to be willing to "step in" for you in case you cannot complete your remarks.
3. It is necessary to have the text of the remembrance on the lectern from which the remembrance will be presented.
4. A remembrance of the deceased is a way of placing the life of the deceased and the present experience of loss within the context of faith. How was the deceased's life an imitation of Christ? How was he/she a person of sharing (healing, helping, feeding, building, teaching, etc.)?
5. It is best not to idealize the life of the deceased. It is important not to speak at great length. Three to five minutes is enough.
6. There are definite religious/theological themes that permeate funerals. These are evident in the readings from Scripture. What can be said about how God worked in the life of the deceased? How did the deceased share a unique, holy life with family, friends, church, and world?
7. An important purpose of the reflection is to give needed support to family members and friends. The remarks should directly or indirectly give comfort to those who grieve and not draw an undue amount of attention to yourself.
8. The remembrance is an opportunity to deepen the assembly's faith. What can be said about the deceased that helps or encourages the assembly?
9. It is best to communicate in your own style. While humor is possible and even healing, it must be done carefully and in good taste.
10. It is a good idea to have a parish staff member or someone else whom you respect read over and critique your presentation.
11. Please know that what is most important to those who grieve is your presence and your connection with them and/or the deceased.
12. Last but not least, keep in mind that you are participating in the sacred funeral rites of a relative or friend. Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit, "the Comforter" for yourself and for the assembly.