

Norms for the Order of Christian Funerals

Diocese of Bridgeport

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

During a Funeral Mass, words of remembrance are offered immediately before the final commendation begins, that is, immediately after the Prayer after Communion, provided that the following norms are observed:

1. Words of remembrance are not a eulogy. They are to provide the opportunity for the family to speak in loving remembrance of the deceased person's characteristics which manifested their faith in God and how they attempted to live the Christian vocation to love God and neighbor as Christ taught us.
2. Words of remembrance can be offered at various moments throughout the funeral rites. It is most preferred that such words be offered at the end of the Vigil Service or at the Burial.
3. If the family desires to have words of remembrance offered during the Funeral Mass, the following norms must be observed:
 - a. The words of remembrance must be written out
 - b. They cannot exceed three minutes
 - c. They must be submitted to the priest celebrant or the funeral director at least one day in advance of the Funeral Mass. It is requested that the funeral director facilitate the transmittal of the text to the priest celebrant before the required deadline.
4. It is never permitted to have more than one person offer such words of remembrance. Rather, the family must have one person speak on all their behalf.
5. The words of remembrance follow the Prayer after Communion and before the Final Commendation begins. They are not to be inserted in any other part of the Funeral Mass, nor at the beginning of the Mass or at the end of Mass after the priest leaves.
6. It is always more appropriate to have such words of remembrance during the Vigil Service after the Concluding Prayer and before the Blessing or at the cemetery, before or after the Committal.

An instructional sheet will be made available for use by the family members of the deceased to help guide them in the creation and delivery of their words of remembrance.