

St. Rita Church

Words of Remembrance Guidelines

A funeral liturgy is celebrated to honor our loved ones. 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.

The Words of Remembrance provide a brief insight into the “Catholic faith and values of the deceased as seen through the lens of one or two examples of his or her life”*. **Words of Remembrance is not a eulogy.** A eulogy is a longer recounting of the person’s life and is appropriate for a funeral home at calling hours or at the cemetery. Words of Remembrance are directed toward how your loved one lived a life of faith or how you saw God in this person. The Words of Remembrance are optional at a funeral mass.

A family member or friend will be asked to give the Words of Remembrance. Realizing that the person chosen is dealing with their own grief, we would like to offer some guidelines.

- ❖ It is not necessary for you to have Words of Remembrance. Many choose to have a eulogy at the funeral home or cemetery.
- ❖ One person may speak briefly – up to, but not more than 5 minutes.
- ❖ The Words of Remembrance will be given after the entrance song at the beginning of the mass.
- ❖ Pray about what you will say. God will guide you.
- ❖ Answer questions like:
 - What characteristics of your loved one were most Christlike?
 - In what ways did you most see Jesus in your loved one?
 - What brought the most joy to your loved one?
 - What qualities of your loved one gave you the most comfort?
 - What qualities of your loved one taught you the most about God?

- ❖ Long stories or several short stories are not appropriate at a funeral mass. These are best saved for a reception following the funeral or at the calling hours.
- ❖ Of course, the Words of Remembrance should be appropriate for church. Please don't use any inappropriate content or language.
- ❖ The Words of Remembrance should be written down or typed. This is very important.
They should be 450 words or less.

Please send a copy at least one day prior to the funeral to Fr. Tim Niven at Niven@dor.org .

Don't hesitate to reach out to Julie Cohn if you have any questions regarding the Words of Remembrance – 671-1100 ext. 103 or julie.cohn@dor.org .

*Taken from Policies for the Administration of the Sacraments