

FUNERAL EULOGIES AT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH

4/8/15

The Funeral Mass is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral rites. Every Mass is the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection. It is an offering of Christ's sacrifice for the repose of the soul of the deceased. Prayers are offered commending the dead to God's merciful love and pleading for the forgiveness of their sins. The Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in Heaven in the one great Communion of Saints. The proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacrament offer hope and consolation to the living. They remind us all to turn to God in time of need and to live prepared for eternity. The center of the Mass remains Christ. Although the funeral is offered for the deceased, remembrance of his or her life is not to overlook or overshadow this principle meaning of the Eucharistic Liturgy. The priest's homily is to be brief and to be based upon the scriptural readings chosen; it is not to be a eulogy. Eulogies are not part of the funeral Mass, and are better celebrated at the vigil in the funeral home or at the reception in a home or a hall. The single exception for the funeral Mass is that before the beginning of Mass, a member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.

For someone to speak before the beginning of the funeral Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe, the following are to be observed:

- 1) The person speaking must be aware of the significance of the Catholic Mass and give his remarks of remembrance in that context.
- 2) Only one person may speak.
- 3) Remarks are not to exceed 2-3 minutes.
- 4) Remarks are to be given from the cantor's podium outside the sanctuary rail, and never from the pulpit, which is reserved for the liturgical proclamation of the Word.
- 5) Avoid recalling immoral behavior, or inviting people to remember the deceased for earthly reasons that may be cause for shame at the judgment.
- 6) Although our trust is in God's mercy and our hope is for salvation, we are not to declare anyone in Heaven, anymore than we can judge that anyone is in Hell. Avoid phrases such as "God needed him in Heaven."
- 7) One may thank God for the graces and blessings granted the deceased in life, and those given the family in the moment of life.
- 9) One may speak of the virtues of the deceased that are worthy of admiration and imitation, or that have inspired others to deepen their faith or live more morally.
- 8) One may invite the faithful to continue to pray for the deceased and for the family.

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is to be received only by those who are regularly practicing Catholics and are spiritually prepared to receive. Fallen away Catholics who have no serious impediment and who are willing to return to the practice of the faith are invited to make a good confession in the days before the funeral Mass, so as to be able to receive communion at the Mass on behalf of the deceased.