

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A EULOGY

Being asked to deliver the eulogy at a Funeral Mass is a great honor. But it can be particularly difficult to do while in the throes of overwhelming grief at the loss of a loved one. We hope these guidelines will help you in preparing the eulogy.

The purpose of a Eulogy in the context of a Catholic Mass

- The eulogy is delivered at the end of the funeral service after the Communion Prayer and before the final commendation.
- Its purpose is to pay loving tribute to the deceased as a beloved child of God.
- The eulogy recalls the role their Catholic faith played in their lives and reflects on their individual, unique Christian qualities.
- In the eulogy we give thanks for their life, share our overwhelming sense of loss at their passing and commend them to God's infinite, loving care.

A eulogy is not required at a Funeral Mass.

Things to remember when preparing a Eulogy

- It is 3-5 minutes in length, is prepared (written down) and practiced.
- There should be only one eulogist at Mass. Other and longer sharing is most appropriately done at the funeral home, wake service, or reception following the Mass/burial.
- The language and content must be appropriate for the church setting.
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What to Avoid in preparing a Eulogy

- "Do you remember when...?" anecdotes which are better shared at the Wake / Reception / Family Gathering.

If you would like more help, feel free to contact the minister who met with you, and is helping you plan the Funeral Liturgy.