



EULOGIES AT FUNERAL MASSES

Although November is the traditional month of the faithful departed, any time of the year is good for us to be reminded about the use of eulogies at funeral liturgies.

- Eulogies, stories, and favorite songs are most appropriately shared during the visitation at the wake service or at the reception following the funeral.
- Experience shows that sharing personal remarks at the Funeral Mass can be inopportune for several reasons:
 - It can create hard feelings if hurtful things of the past are raised or create discomfort in ill-advised attempts at humor.
 - There are also concerns in view of past experiences that eulogies can overshadow in length and attention the Funeral Mass itself, especially if those offering words turn the Church's rites into a celebration of life that focuses only on the accomplishments of the deceased's past, with scant attention to our faith in the resurrection.
- With that said, in a desire to be pastorally sensitive to the family of the deceased, the following norms have been established after consultation with the presbyteral council and the approval of the cardinal:
 - The pastor of the parish may allow a reflection by one individual. This can be nicely done prior to the beginning of the funeral Mass, before the collect or after the communion prayer.
 - The personal reflections should be limited to three minutes and be presented to the pastor or presiding priest in writing in advance of the service.
 - The next point is essential: the eulogy stresses the faith of the deceased.

In all things, pastoral kindness is required.