

PEACE

Through Planning

For Life's Critical Moments:

Final Illness

Death

Funeral Planning

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
632 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN

PEACE THROUGH PLANNING:

For Life's Critical Moments - Final Illness, Death and Funeral began as a work of the grief support committee of the Church of St. Rita in Cottage Grove, MN. A second edition of the guide was revised by Sister Pauline Fritz, SSND, Pastoral Minister. This edition has once again been revised by Fr. John Kunz and the Liturgical staff of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Mankato, MN.

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GATHERING OF GENERAL DATA

Death comes to each of us. Often we have very little forewarning or control over the circumstances of our dying. Sudden death or death following a terminal illness remains part of the mystery of life. Planning for these end times is a gentle way of being supportive of our loved ones who, while grieving our dying, must also try to make a peaceful, orderly, and spiritual transition to living without us. This Guide is designed to make the planning for end times a logical step in the life of a responsible and caring adult.

Valuable Documents and Their Location

Because we live with a margin of the unknown, we take prudent steps to plan for what we cannot control. First among these steps is the preparation and organization of your medical, financial, and personal documents. The following list should be completed and kept together in a folder or binder, in a safe but readily accessible location for those who will need it:

- ⇒ ***Peace Through Planning, Funeral Planning*** - after filling in the appropriate sections of this Guide, it may be given to the funeral home that has your pre-planned funeral, with your church, in the binder or folder that contains other important documents.
- ⇒ ***Health Care Directive*** - a written statement that enables you to inform others of the kinds of health care you would or would not want. After you have prepared a Health Care Directive, copies should be on file with: your doctor, health care provider, hospital, designated health care agent and close family members.
- ⇒ ***Power of Attorney*** - a legal document in which you give another person the authority to make decisions regarding your financial, business, and legal affairs.
- ⇒ ***Personal Will*** - a Will tells everyone how to divide the property and other holdings you have accumulated over your lifetime.
- ⇒ ***Insurance Company Information*** (name, address, phone number) and insurance policies.
- ⇒ ***Banking information*** (name, address, phone number) and all account numbers.
- ⇒ ***All Financial Records.***
- ⇒ Credit Card information, Military Discharge Forms, and other important documents.
- ⇒ **COPY OF YOUR OBITUARY.**

The location of these documents should be given to your Power of Attorney or a close family member. ***Immediate access to these documents in a safe deposit box may be legally restricted and therefore may not be readily available for health care or funeral planning and expenses.***

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The following paragraph is intended to free the survivors from undue constraint in planning the funeral of the undersigned.

I have given the following instructions as an aid to my family and friends in the event of my death. I understand that some of these instructions may not be able to be carried out. Ultimately, my funeral should be an experience that helps my family and friends deal with the reality of my death. I understand and expect that the instructions I have given here may need to be changed because of the circumstances and/or the needs of my family and friends. These instructions are intended to be a guide not an obstacle to a meaningful funeral.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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My family: (spouse, children or other relatives)

If you have not pre-planned your funeral, but have given someone Power of Attorney, such decisions as funeral arrangements, all financial matters, and the execution of one's will become the responsibility of that person. It may be helpful to inform your Power of Attorney or family (if no Power of Attorney has been named) in the following areas:

Funeral Arrangements

The person(s) who could best help make funeral arrangements:

Name	City/State	Relationship
Name	City/State	Relationship

Financial Arrangements

The person(s) who could best help with my business and legal affairs:

Name	City/State	Relationship
Name	City/State	Relationship

The time of your death may be very stressful for those who must be attentive to the details surrounding the funeral, the liturgy, and burial. Loved ones may be expected to notify family and friends, select a casket and a cemetery plot, and plan for the visitation. Family and friends may also be invited to help plan the funeral liturgy, along with the pastoral staff of the church where the funeral will be held, so that the community can be led in prayer and worship services that reflect the life of and honor the memory of the deceased. Planning the funeral liturgy is an important part of the final farewell.

The Funeral Home will -

- Be your first contact after a death. If the death is at home you need to contact the police (call 911), or your hospice nurse.
- Assist with choosing a date and time for funeral.
- Contact the church to notify the clergy, set the date and time.
- Originate the Death Certificate and file with necessary government agencies.
- Assist family in writing the obituary; and send it to all newspapers requested by family.
- Assist in choosing a casket or urn.
- Order food for the funeral reception, if so desired.
- Assist with ordering flowers.
- Distribute honorariums.
- Provide information on and contact cemetery of choice.
- Arrange Visitation/Wake and/or Prayer Service.
- Set up at the church.

The Church will -

- Arrange for a priest or pastoral care minister to come to the home of the deceased person's family immediately after the death for prayer and counseling. The ***Sacrament of the sick with Viaticum*** (previously referred to as 'Last Rights') needs to be administered before death.
- Work with the Funeral Home on setting date and time.
- Meet with family to go over liturgical information, including music, provided in this booklet for the Mass.
- Provide a worship aid (order of service) for the funeral.
- Allow a Visitation/Wake to be held at the church the evening before and/or 1 hour before funeral, providing facility not previously reserved.
- Offer St. John's Funeral Hospitality Ministry to assist with a reception/luncheon following the funeral, in Matthews Hall. They will:
 - set up and decorate tables,
 - serve food provided by caterer,
 - provide beverages (coffee, lemonade, water) and dessert (various cakes),
 - wash dishes and clean up.

The above listed services may change. Confirm with Parish Office at time of need.

For persons who have time to anticipate life's end time, this section of the booklet will provide guidance as you record information that will assist family and friends during funeral planning. You may complete this booklet by yourself, with family and friends, or with the help of the parish pastoral staff. The parish staff wants to make the planning of this farewell prayer a meaningful experience for those who gather to pray and remember.

Planning Suggestions

- Include all concerned persons in the funeral/liturgy planning.
- Use this information as a guide in selecting prayers, songs, and Scripture readings.
- Use a Bible or parish songbook when planning the liturgy.
- Speak with the parish staff about planning for a funeral luncheon served after the liturgy.
- Speak to the Funeral Director or the parish secretary about fees charged at the church.

Funeral Home

Arrangements with a funeral home of choice, if not made before death, should begin by the family soon after death. The complete services of the funeral home will then be available to the family. The funeral home of choice should be named here:

Name of Funeral Home

City/State

Phone Number

Cemetery

All arrangements with the cemetery are made through the Funeral Director.

Name of Cemetery

City/State

Plot number

Burial or Cremation as Final Disposition

Burial symbolizes the return of the body to the basic earthly elements from which it was made and from which it will be called to resurrection. The cemetery plot provides a location for the survivors to honor the deceased. While many people prefer burial of the remains as they remember the deceased, others have expressed a desire to be cremated. Cremation has been permissible in the Catholic Church since 1963. It is preferable that the body be present for the funeral Mass with cremation to follow. After cremation, a private service of burial is arranged with the family. The cremains are placed in consecrated ground or a proper place of respect such as a mausoleum.

I prefer:

Funeral Mass in the presence of the body.

Funeral Mass in the presence of cremains.

Memorial Mass, no body or cremains present (i.e. donated to science)

Notes: _____

Memorials:

I would appreciate being remembered in memorial Masses.

I would like memorial donations given to: _____

OVERVIEW OF THE FUNERAL RITE

The death and resurrection of Jesus gives new meaning to the death of a Christian. For us, life is changed, not ended. We believe that in prayer we have a powerful way of being with our loved ones who have passed from death to life.

The funeral rite consists of **the prayer vigil or wake, the funeral Mass, and the burial.** During the funeral rite, the family and friends of the deceased share with the greater community their sense of loss. In turn, the community provides hope and comfort through the shared prayers of the funeral liturgy.

THE PRAYER VIGIL OR WAKE

The wake service can be held either at the funeral home or in the church. Because friends and relatives come with memories to share and stories to tell, the wake service has a personal dimension.

The Rosary or a brief prayer service is part of the wake service. A tribute may be part of the wake service. During this less structured aspect of the wake service, family and friends are invited to share personal memories about the deceased. The individual tributes speak of the impact that the dead person had on the lives of others and the community. In addition to or instead of tributes, the wake service may include a favorite poem or songs or hymns that are not quite appropriate for the Eucharistic liturgy.

The wake service is prepared by the family with help as requested from the parish staff.

Memory Table

A memory table is another way of remembering the deceased. The memory table may contain photographs, mementos of special occasions, items symbolic of one's work or hobbies, insignia of office or organizational membership, or other items which are representative of the life of the deceased.



The Easter Candle is placed near the coffin at the church, as a reminder of the promise of Jesus to raise us up on the last day.

Selections for the readings and ritual actions to be used in the Funeral or Memorial Mass

THE FUNERAL MASS

Presiding Priest: _____ Concelebrant: _____

Bringing the casket/urn to the church and moving the casket/urn to the sanctuary symbolizes the journey of the deceased from life into life eternal. Songs for this sacred event should be appropriate to a funeral liturgy.

Introductory Rites

The presider meets the casket/urn and mourners near the church entry. After greeting the mourners, the priest sprinkles the casket/urn with holy water in remembrance of the deceased's Baptism. A white cloth (pall) is placed on the casket/urn by family members or friends in remembrance of the white garment received at Baptism. The presider then turns and leads the procession to the front of the church. This action is accompanied by the Gathering song.

Placing of the Pall by: ___ Family ___ Pall Bearers ___ Funeral Director
Name(s): _____

Gathering Song: *See page 11 for suggestions*

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

*The Liturgy of the Word consists of a reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (sung), a reading from the New Testament, and a Gospel reading. The Gospel reading is the central idea of the Funeral Mass, those planning a funeral service should select the Gospel passage first. The priest who delivers the homily will look for guidance in planning the homily to the Gospel passage you have selected. The first two readings and the general intercessions may be read by a person or persons of your choice. **See pages 12-13 for suggested readings.***

First Reading (Old Testament): _____
Book/Chapter/Verses

Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm: *See page 11 for suggestions*

Second Reading (New Testament): _____
Book/Chapter/Verses

Read by: _____

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel Reading: _____
Book/Chapter/Verses

Read by: Presiding Priest or Concelebrant

General Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful:

General intercessions are read after the homily. These intercessions may be selected by you from those already in this booklet or they may be composed by family members and friends with assistance from pastor/pastoral minister, as needed.

See page 14/15: ___ Option 1 ___ Option 2
 ___ Option 3 - Prepared by family

Read by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The gifts of bread and wine are presented by two or more persons you have designated.

Presentation of the Gifts by: _____

OR ___ No presentation of the Gifts (Gifts on Altar)

Offertory Song: *See page 11 for suggestions*

During the Eucharistic Prayer the acclamations are sung. The acclamations are followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Sign of Peace. The congregation hopes and believes that our deceased loved one shares in God's eternal peace and so we extend that same peace to one another during the Sign of Peace.

Communion Song: *See page 11 for suggestions*

Eucharistic Minister(s) (Optional, must be commissioned): _____

Prayer after Communion

Final Commendation

Remarks of Remembrance (optional-see pg 15), spoken by: _____

Song of Remembrance (optional), sung by: _____

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell / Incensing of Casket: *See page 11 for suggestions*

The casket is incensed at this time as a sign of the great reverence we have for the body, which during life was the "Temple of God." This incensing also symbolizes the rising of the person as well as our prayers into God's presence.

Prayer of Commendation

Recessional Hymn: *See page 11 for suggestions*



Liturgical Assistance for the Funeral Mass:

Mass Server: ___ provided by family Name(s): _____
 ___ provided by parish

Musicians: *See page 15 for guidelines*

___ **Provided by family** ___ Soloist ___ Pianist / Organist

Name(s): _____

OR

___ **Provided by parish** ___ Funeral Choir

___ Soloist ___ Pianist/Organist

Name(s): _____

Casketbearers:

There are usually six casketbearers (male or female) who assist in moving the casket at the church and cemetery. Usually, family members or friends of the deceased are asked to serve as casket bearers. Sometimes, honorary casket bearers are named. These people do not assist in carrying the casket but are named because of a special friendship or relationship with the deceased. Any number of individuals may serve as honorary casket bearers.

RITE OF COMMITTAL AT THE GRAVESIDE

The third and final part of the Funeral Rite, the Rite of Committal at the Graveside, may be more private and often the most painful aspect of the Funeral Rite. Only the closest people will journey this last distance with you. Sometimes the committal at the graveside takes place immediately after the funeral liturgy. Others choose to have the graveside service after they have shared a meal with family and friends. Persons who choose cremation may have a private burial at a later date.

A committal at a National Cemetery may include an Honor Guard and brief military ceremony. The funeral director will be able to provide you with information as to what is usual and customary under the circumstances.

For those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, the celebration of that life may bring some closure; but for those who remain, **LIFE IS ALSO FOREVER CHANGED.**

SONGS FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

GATHERING SONG:

- _____ *Amazing Grace*
- _____ *Baptized in Water*
(TUNE: *Morning has Broken*)
- _____ *Be Not Afraid*
- _____ *Eye Has Not Seen*
- _____ *Here I Am, Lord*
- _____ *Sing A New Song*
- _____ *Sing With All the Saints in Glory*

Other: _____
(Song Title)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

- _____ *Ps 23: Shepherd Me, O God*
- _____ *Ps 25: To You, O Lord (Soper)*
- _____ *Ps 27: The Goodness of the Lord*
- _____ *Ps 34: Taste and See (Talbot)*
- _____ *Ps 63: My Soul Is Thirsting*
- _____ *Ps 103: Loving and Forgiving*
- _____ *Ps 122: I Rejoiced (Spirit & Song 1)*

Other: _____
(Song Title)

OFFERTORY SONG:

- _____ *Bread of Life (Fischer)*
- _____ *Christ, Be Our Light*
- _____ *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*
- _____ *Prayer of St. Francis*
- _____ *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
- _____ *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*
- _____ *You Are the Healing*

Other: _____
(Song Title)

COMMUNION SONG:

- _____ *Bread of Angels*
- _____ *I Am the Bread of Life*
- _____ *On Eagle's Wings*
- _____ *One Bread, One Body*
- _____ *Spirit and Grace*
- _____ *Taste and See (Moore or Kendzia)*
- _____ *The Supper of the Lord*

Other: _____
(Song Title)

FINAL COMMENDATION:

- _____ *Carry Me Home*
- _____ *Go In Peace (Hart)*
- _____ *O Loving God (TUNE: O Danny Boy-Irish)*
- _____ *Song of Farewell (OLD HUNDREDTH)*

Other: _____
(Song Title)

RECESSIONAL SONG:

- _____ *City of God*
- _____ *How Great Thou Art*
- _____ *Lead Me, Lord*
- _____ *Let There Be Peace on Earth*
- _____ *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*
- _____ *On Eagle's Wings*
- _____ *Rain Down*
- _____ *Soon and Very Soon*

Other: _____
(Song Title)

READINGS FOR THE LITURGY OF THE WORD—TAKEN FROM NABRE

Either one or two readings plus a responsorial psalm and Gospel Reading should be selected.

If two readings are to be used, select one text each from the Old Testament and New Testament Readings.

If one reading is to be used. Select one text from either the Old Testament or New Testament Readings.

In reading through the possible Old and New Testament selections, you may also find a passage that you would like to have read at the visitation/wake service or cemetery. Be sure to note those selections.

Old Testament

- OT1 **Genesis 9:8-17** _____ "...This is the sign of the covenant I have established..."
- OT2 **2 Maccabees 12:43-46** _____ "...he made atonement for the dead..."
- OT3 **Job 19:1, 23-27** _____ "...I know that my vindicator lives..."
- OT4 **Psalms 127** _____ "...Children too are a gift from God..."
- OT5 **Psalms 139:1-18, 23-24** _____ "...Lord, you have probed me...you know when I sit and stand..."
- OT6 **Proverbs 31:10-12, 15, 20, 25-26, 28-31** "When one finds a worthy wife...the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised..."
- OT7a **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (long)** _____ "...A time to be born, a time to die..."
- OT7b **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11 (short)** _____ "...A time to be born, a time to die..."
- OT8 **Song of Songs 2:10-14** _____ "...Arise, my friend, my beautiful one and come..."
- OT9a **Wisdom 3:1-9 (long)** _____ "...The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God..."
- OT9b **Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (short)** _____ "...The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God..."
- OT10a **Wisdom 4:7-10, 13-15 (male)** _____ "...The Righteous One, though he die early, shall be at rest."
- OT10b **Wisdom 4:7-10, 13-15 (female)** _____ "...The Righteous One, though she die early, shall be at rest."
- OT11 **Sirach 2:1-11** _____ "...in fire gold is tested...the Lord is compassionate and merciful..."
- OT12a **Isaiah 25:6-9 (long)** _____ "...a feast of rich foods and choice wines..."
- OT12b **Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 (short)** _____ "...he will destroy death forever..."
- OT13 **Isaiah 26:7-19** _____ "...your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise..."
- OT14 **Isaiah 35:1-10** _____ "...Here is your God, he comes with vindication..."
- OT15 **Isaiah 40:1-11** _____ "...Comfort, give comfort to my people..."
- OT16 **Isaiah 40:25-31** _____ "...They will run and not grow weary..."
- OT17 **Jeremiah 29:11-13** _____ "...I know well the plans I have in mind for you..."
- OT18 **Lamentations 3:21-26** _____ "...My portion is the Lord, says my soul..."
- OT19 **Ezekiel 34:11-14, 30-31** _____ "...I myself will search for my sheep..."
- OT20 **Ezekiel 37:12-14** _____ "...Look! I am going to open your graves...and make you come up out of them..."
- OT21 **Daniel 12:1-3** _____ "...those with insight shall shine brightly..."
- OT22 **Micah 7:7-9** _____ "...though I sit in darkness, the Lord is my light..."

New Testament

- NT1a **Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (long)** _____ "...Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins..."
- NT1b **Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43 (short)** "Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins"
- NT2 **Romans 5:1, 5-11** _____ "...We were reconciled to God through the death of his Son..."
- NT3 **Romans 5:17-21** _____ "...through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all..."
- NT4a **Romans 6:3-9 (long)** _____ "...if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him."
- NT4b **Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 (short)** _____ "...if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him."
- NT5 **Romans 8:1-11** _____ "...There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..."
- NT6 **Romans 8:14-23** _____ "...Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God..."
- NT7 **Romans 8:31-35, 37-39** _____ "...If God is for us, who can be against us?..."
- NT8 **Romans 14:7-9, 10-12** _____ "...This is why Christ died and came to life..."
- NT9 **1 Corinthians 2:6-10** _____ "...Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard..."

NEW TESTAMENT—CONT'D

NT10	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 _____	"...Love is patient, love is kind..."
NT11	1 Corinthians 15:12-20 _____	"...If there is no resurrection of the dead..."
NT12a	1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (long) _____	"...In Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life..."
NT12b	1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (short) _____	"...In Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life..."
NT13	1 Corinthians 15:51-57 _____	"...Where, O Death, is your victory?"
NT14	2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 _____	"...The one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us..."
NT15	2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 _____	"...We would rather leave the body and go home..."
NT16	Philippians 3:7-14 _____	"...I continue my pursuit...the prize of God's upward calling..."
NT17	Philippians 3:20-21 _____	"...He will change our lowly body..."
NT18	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 _____	"...If we believe that Jesus died and rose..."
NT19	2 Timothy 2:8-13 _____	"...Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead..."
NT20	2 Timothy 4:1-2, 6-8 _____	"...I have competed well, I have finished the race..."
NT21	1 John 3:1-2 _____	"...Beloved, we are God's children now..."
NT22	1 John 3:14-16 _____	"...We know that we have passed from death to life..."
NT23	Revelation 14:13 _____	"...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."
NT24	Revelation 20:11-12:1 _____	"...The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades..."
NT25	Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 _____	"...I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem..."

Other: _____

Gospel

G1	Matthew 5:1-12a <i>The Eight Beatitudes</i> , _____	"...Blessed are they who mourn..."
G2	Matthew 7:21, 24-29 _____	"...Like a wise man who built his house on rock..."
G3	Matthew 11:25-30 _____	"...Come to me . . . and I will give you rest."
G4	Matthew 25:1-13 _____	"...Behold. the bridegroom!...Come out to meet him!..."
G5	Matthew 25:31-46 _____	"...Come, you who are blessed by my Father ..."
G6a	Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6 (long) _____	"...Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last..."
G6b	Mark 15:33-39 (short) _____	"...My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
G7	Luke 7:11-17 _____	"...Young man, I tell you, arise..."
G8	Luke 10:38-42 <i>Mary and Martha</i> _____	"...Martha, Martha, you are anxious..."
G9	Luke 12:35-40 _____	"...Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,..."
G10	Luke 23:33, 39-43 _____	"...Today you will be with me in paradise..."
G11a	Luke 23:44-46, 50-53, 24:1-6a (long) _____	"...Father, into your hands I commend my spirit..."
G11b	Luke 23:44-49 (short) _____	"...Father, into your hands I commend my spirit..."
G12a	Luke 24:13-35 (long) _____	"...Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer..."
G12b	Luke 24:13-16, 28-35 (short) _____	"...Were not our hearts burning within us..."
G13	John 5:24-29 _____	"...Whoever hears my word and believes...has passed from..."
G14	John 6:37-40 _____	"...Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him, may have eternal life..."
G15	John 6:51-58 _____	"...Whoever eats this bread will live forever..."
G16a	John 11:17-27 (long) _____	"...I am the resurrection and the life..."
G16b	John 11:21-27 (short) _____	"...I am the resurrection and the life..."
G17	John 11:32-45 _____	"...Lazarus, come out..."
G18a	John 12:23-28 (long) _____	"...Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies..."
G18b	John 12:23-26 (short) _____	"...Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies..."
G19	John 14:1-6 _____	"...In my Father's house there are many dwelling places..."
G20	John 17:24-26 _____	"...Father, I wish that where I am they also may be with me..."

Other: _____

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS FOR FUNERAL LITURGY

The intercessions may be selected by you from the following options or they may be composed by family members and friends. If you choose to write your own intercessory prayers, those included below may serve as helpful models.

Option 1

1. For _____, who in baptism received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness and lead him/her over the waters of death into the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

2. For our brother/sister, _____, who was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

(NOTE: the following intercession can be changed/adapted, or deleted.)

3. For the many people who supported and cared for _____; may they now know consolation in their grief and blessing in their continued ministry to others.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

4. For the relatives and friends of our brother/sister, _____; may they be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend, Lazarus.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

5. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith; may we be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

6. For all our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us; may they receive the reward of their goodness.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

Option 2

1. For _____, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life; that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

2. For our brother/sister, _____, who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life; that he/she may be raised up on the last day.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

3. Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. May those who suffer these sins, so unjustly, against God's love, experience mercy and be gathered into the eternal kingdom of peace.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

4. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. May God give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known only by God.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

5. The family and friends of _____ seek comfort and consolation. May God heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

6. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister, _____. May our hope be strengthened so that we may live in the expectation of Christ's coming.

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

Option 3 - Prepared by family

1. _____

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

2. _____

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

3. _____

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

4. _____

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

5. _____

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

6. _____

We pray to the Lord. *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Guidelines for creating
“Remarks of Remembrance”
for Funeral Mass (Eulogy)**

If a Eulogy at the conclusion of the Vigil Service is not possible, pastors may permit a family member or friend to speak “in memory of the deceased” after communion. These remarks should be carefully prepared and last no longer than 5-7 minutes total. The remarks must not in any way distort Catholic theology regarding death and life after death, contain elements which are not appropriate for the sacred atmosphere of the church, or be offensive to the family or assembly.

The individual tribute speaks of the impact that the deceased person had on the lives of others and the community and may include a few special memories held by the speaker. This is not the time to read or paraphrase the obituary which is already available to those who attend the funeral mass.

In addition to or instead of a tribute, the family may choose to include a favorite poem, song, or hymn that is appropriate for the Eucharistic liturgy.

**Guidelines for selecting
Music and Musicians for Funeral Mass**

Music: Each of the hymns or songs sung at a funeral mass has an important function. They serve to “support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ’s victory over death.” (*Order of Christian Funerals, General Introduction, #31*) Hymns and songs chosen for the funeral mass must be liturgical in nature and be appropriate for the particular celebration.

Songs that are not liturgical in nature or songs that are purely popular culture or national and have no Christian significance are not appropriate for the funeral mass.

At the conclusion of the funeral mass, the procession to the Place of Committal begins, and the Funeral Rite prescribes that a suitable verse from scripture or an appropriate liturgical song be sung. This would not be an appropriate time for non-religious music to be played or sung, unless approved in advance.

The Funeral Rites do not envision music being played which is not performed live, such as CD’s or i-pods, since the use of music is a prayer and indeed a consolation to the faithful which cannot be fulfilled by a machine.

Musicians: The Catholic Funeral Mass uses the weekly Sunday mass as its model. There are common rituals, gestures, prayers, music, and moments of sacred silence that are observed. Because of this and other factors (including familiarity with audio system), it is our recommendation that you select a cantor and/or funeral choir and accompanist from the parish to lead music for the funeral mass. The pastor or parish staff can assist in making these contacts. If a family member or friend of the deceased is a practicing Catholic and has the experience of leading the assembly in song, they are welcome to lead music for the funeral mass.

Family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics are welcome to share their gift of music by singing a solo or as part of an ensemble, an appropriate and approved selection(s), before or during the funeral mass. They may also participate with a trained cantor and/or funeral choir, if desired.

The Life Story of _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents Names:

Father: _____ Mother: _____
(Mother's Maiden Name)

Place of Birth:

City _____ State _____ County _____

Education:

Marriage:

Special Interests/hobbies:

My Family:

Children/Spouses:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Siblings/Spouses:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____