

Words of Remembrance Guidelines

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 / her life” (Addendum 6, Policies for the Administration of the Sacraments). Unlike a eulogy, which is longer, elaborates on the life of the deceased, and toasting in nature, the Words of Remembrance give some insight into their life of faith and Christian values.

When preparing your Words of Remembrance please keep these guidelines in mind:

- 1) ABC’s: **A**ppropriate, **B**rief, and **C**hrist Centered. (Example on the next page.)
- 2) They should only be **3-5 minutes** in length. This is equivalent to 450 typed words, or one written page. “Keeping your remarks brief and to-the-point recognizes not only the integrity of the liturgy, but also the fact that people have often made a sacrifice to be present. Brevity is the kindest and most appreciated consideration you can give them” (Addendum 7, Policies for the Administration of the Sacraments).
- 3) Only **one person**, who is close to the deceased, should give the Words of Remembrance. If they would like support while speaking, they are permitted to have one additional person stand with them at the ambo.
- 4) This is an **optional** part of the funeral liturgy and not required.
- 5) The Words of Remembrance will be given prior to the First Reading, towards the beginning of the liturgy.
- 6) The Words should be **appropriate** and not embarrassing or belittling to the deceased. The words should be that of honor.
- 7) If requested by the writer, the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, can review the Words and provide suggestions if needed.
- 8) Please **review the Words of Remembrance Example** on the following page as a guide when writing your reflection.

We thank you for adhering to these guidelines. If there are any questions regarding the Words of Remembrance or the Funeral Liturgy, please contact the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator at 671-2100.