



Guidelines for a Eulogy at a Funeral Service

1. The Order of Christian Funerals states that “a brief homily based on the readings is always given after the Gospel reading...but there is never to be a eulogy. The homily relates Christian death to the paschal mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection. Attentive to the grief of those present, the homily properly includes an expression of praise and gratitude to God for the gift of a Christian life and such virtues or strengths apparent in the deceased's life” (n. 27).
2. If family members wish to remember their loved one during the Funeral Rites, they must ask and obtain permission from the officiating priest or deacon at the time of the planning for the funeral.
3. It is important to distinguish between a eulogy, which takes place before or after the Liturgy, from remarks about the deceased, which take place in a non-liturgical setting, such as at a reception following the Vigil or Funeral Mass.
4. If there is to be a eulogy, the following order of preference regarding its placement is to be observed:
 - a. at the conclusion of the Vigil Service
 - b. before the beginning of the Funeral Mass
 - c. following the Prayers of Committal at the cemetery.
5. The officiating priest, who needs to care for both the integrity of the Liturgy and the reputation of the deceased, should make every effort to ensure that the eulogist is of upright character. He should feel free to see and edit the text beforehand.
6. The eulogy itself should be brief, and should concentrate on the life of the loved one, highlighting his or her virtues and faith journey, without “canonizing” the deceased.

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*With this approval, the policy named **EULOGIES**, effective **2003-July-03** is hereby abrogated.*