



# WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

## *A Guide for Speakers at the Funeral Liturgy*

You have been invited to offer words of remembrance at the Funeral Liturgy for a person dear to you. This is a great *honor* and responsibility. This guide is offered to help you plan and deliver your remembrance well.

- 1. Only one person is allowed to offer words of remembrance.**
- 2. The spoken remembrance may not be more than five minutes in length.**
- 3. Prepare your remembrance in writing. One page of text generally represents a minute of speaking time.**
- 4. Remember that you are speaking to some people whom you know well, and others that you have never met, therefore, refrain from using “inside jokes.”**
- 5. Use your own words. Speak from your heart.**
- 6. Always read your words of remembrance. This will help you to not lose your train of thought.**
- 7. At St. Norbert Church, the “Words of Remembrance” will be presented at the beginning or the end of the Funeral Mass, depending on the preference of the presiding priest.**
- 8. You should arrive at the church 30 minutes before the service is to begin so that you may practice hearing your voice on the St. Norbert audio system.**

Should you have any questions, please contact your Bereavement Minister or the Bereavement Ministry Coordinator, Fr. Charles Tran at (714) 637-4360.

**A sample of “Words of Remembrance” is on the back side of this page.**

## Words of Remembrance (Example)

Thank you all for being here to remember and celebrate our cherished memories of John Doe.

Look at John's legacy gathered here in this Church. We are here, ALL of us. Each and every one of us. From his life-long friends, to their grown children and families and extended families too. We are all here to celebrate John and his life, and his love for us.

John was born in Ontario, California on August 10, 1960. He was one of four children, who lived on the farm with his family. Many of the funny stories that John would tell his children while they were growing up, came from his experiences on the farm. He LOVED living on the farm.

His loving parents instilled in John his faith in Jesus Christ. While they tried to (but did not always succeed in) attending church each Sunday, they made sure that he attended his religious education classes.

When John was 18 he was accepted to and attended college at the University of Notre Dame. His love and defense of the fighting Irish would be a lifelong passion of his. Everyone who knew John, knew that you did not call or visit him on any Saturday during the fall, because he would be watching his Fighting Irish football team play, and he did not want to be disturbed.

In January of 1979, he met the love of his life...Mary Mahoney. It was love at first sight, and three years later she became his wife. John would refer to this day, as the day he was lucky enough to "Marry Up". He knew that Mary was a blessing from God, and she was sent to make him be accountable, and a better man. He never let her forget that he had her on a pedestal. Together they raised six wonderful and successful children, while John worked at Simpkin, Stephens and Lambert.

When we hear that name –JOHN- and just as we all have done countless times in the past, John's large beaming smile – from ear to ear – comes to mind. John's bear hugs, his sometimes prankish grin and loud infectious laugh comes to mind. We do, and should, remember the great times and the great memories. John being with us for storytelling, gatherings, the multiple family vacations with the extended families, sporting events, laughter with schoolmates that have known and called him brother and friend (literally for decades). All who have known John and had the pleasure of spending time with him.

Our family knows that you all think as we do: while John's physical years on this earth did not last as long as we all needed and wanted, remembering, reminiscing (many times with laughter) and expressing, our love for him will keep him in our hearts forever.

St. Norbert Church was John's church, it was here that he practiced his faith as often as he could, and it was here that he learned how to practice his faith in his daily life. John's faith, was deep, but it was also very private. He was a living Christian, living his daily life the way that Jesus taught him to.

It was a sad day for our family, when John learned that he had cancer. He battled his ailment with the every part of his being, but also with grace and dignity, and never once did ask God WHY he was given his affliction. Instead, John became the perfect example for us on how to fight, and continue to keep his faith.

We know that today, John is heaven, looking down on us, smiling at us with all of the angels and saints at his side. We know that why John's body is no longer walking on this earth, his love, and our memories of him are IMPRINTED on our hearts and our soul forever. And we know that we will one day see him again. And when we do, I am sure the first thing we will hear him say is... GO IRISH, and then as he always did, he will give to us, one of those famous bear hugs, and say to us...welcome home.