

Worksheet for Preparation of “Words of Remembrance”

Thank you for agreeing to offer the “Words of Remembrance” at the funeral of your loved one. You, in a profound way, do us a great good in this ministry. By your words, we learn how your loved one lived out a life of faith, and what great good God has done for you and others through him/her.

This simple instruction may help you prepare your thoughts in this difficult time and assist you in this ministry. First a few points to remember:

- This is not a eulogy. A eulogy is a longer recounting of the person’s life and is appropriate elsewhere, but is not allowed during Mass. Not even the priest may make a eulogy during a Mass. Ask your funeral director about a eulogy at the funeral home before the funeral, or the Church’s preparer about a eulogy during the reception if this is something you would like to do.
- Because these words occur during Mass they must be directed toward how this person lived a life of faith or how you saw God in this person.
- The words should be no longer than five minutes in length. The most powerful words of remembrance are often the shortest. The instruction for how funeral Masses are conducted includes an instruction to be brief.
- The Words of Remembrance are optional.

Questions to assist you in developing your thoughts

What characteristic of N _____ was the most Christlike?

In what did you most see Jesus in N _____?

What brought the most joy to N _____ in their life? The most peace?

What quality in N _____ gave you the most comfort?

What quality in N _____ taught you the most about God?

When N _____ cooked for us, took us fishing, etc. we learned what about God, or life?