

Funeral Liturgical Roles

Updated November 2013

- A. Lead the ***Rite of Transfer of the body to the Church*** if trained - This rite may be used for prayer with the family and close friends as they prepare to accompany the body of the deceased in the procession to the church for the Funeral Liturgy. The procession to the church is a rite of initial separation of the mourners from the deceased. Reverent celebration of the rite can help reassure the mourners and create an atmosphere of calm preparation before the procession. (OCF, #119,120)

Outline of the Rite – Invitation, Scripture Verse, Brief Litany, The Lord’s Prayer, Concluding Prayer, and Invitation to the Procession.

- B. Lead or assist with the ***Rite of Committal*** - The rite of committal, the conclusion of the funeral rites, is the **final act** of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member. In committing the body to its final resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with all those who have gone before marked with the sign of faith, the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection. This rite is an **expression of the communion** that exists between the **Church on earth and**

the Church in heaven: the deceased passes with the farewell prayers of the community of believers into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer but see God face to face. (OCF, #204,206)

Outline of the Rite of Committal – Invitation, Scripture Verse, Prayer over the Place of Committal, Committal, Intercessions, The Lord’s Prayer, Concluding Prayer, and the Prayer over the People.

- C. **Sacristan** – “Sacristans are priceless. If Eucharist is going to be celebrated, somebody has to prepare it. If a meal at home is going to be eaten, somebody has to get it ready. Those who eat rarely show sufficient appreciation to those who did all the work. Yet by the grace of God the work goes on. God knows what you do, and you can be confident of a reward that satisfies beyond human measure.”

*I’m setting out the vessels, Lord. I’m reaching for cups and plates, pitchers, and bowls. Now they are empty. Soon they will hold the bread and wine that will become your body and blood. **Make me a vessel, Lord. Open my heart and make me you to all I meet. Amen.***

- D. **Word Ministry**- A lay minister who proclaims/reads from the Lectionary for Mass. Show readers where the scriptures and the ambo/lectern are located.

1st and Second Readings, Prayers of the Faithful

- E. **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** - Offer the Body and Blood of Christ in the form of bread and wine at the Communion Rite. Anyone who is a trained Lay Minister at their parish.

(2 – cups, 1 – bread (less than 100 people, no extra bread person is needed)

- F. **Gift Bearer** - Present the gifts of the faith community. Guide the family members in carrying the gifts or assist.