

# Remarks of Remembrance

## Guidelines

Archdiocese of St. Louis

Remarks of Remembrance, skillfully done, will focus on the deceased and then give us hope or project us into the future. Remarks of Remembrance, again, if skillfully prepared, will not be emotionally engaging, but with the power of God at work bring about transformation in the grieving process.

It is extremely important that the presider know what will be given during these remarks. Since it is within the Eucharist, the presider has to be aware of what will be said and how it is said during the Eucharistic ritual. Remarks of Remembrance are not meant to give anyone the ability to “preach” in a church. Therefore, it is extremely important that in planning the liturgy with the family, the Remarks of Remembrance be explained. The family should be reminded that what is said should be Christ-centered and the remarks said so as to engage how the person lived their Christian faith. The remarks should enhance the liturgy and not detract from the ritual. All should be liturgically and ritually proper. The family and friends have a right to expect personal and relevant elements of the liturgy to reflect the life of the deceased and integrated into the paschal mystery. The presider has a right to know and give guidelines for the Remarks of Remembrance.

### Guidelines for “Remarks of Remembrance”

- 1) allow just one speaker
- 2) limit the time to two to three minutes
- 3) see beforehand the commentary, poem that will be read
- 4) encourage other possible times for the storytelling about the deceased, such as during the wake service, at the cemetery, or the luncheon.

The presider must also be aware of cultural differences for the grieving of one’s deceased. Sensitivity and respect are of the utmost concern for the family and friends during this time.