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## Funerals –What we believe and what we celebrate

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Today many in the culture are turning a funeral into a “celebration of life” of the deceased. It is the ultimate “selfie” – all about you. However, for the Christian **we celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ and have the hope of Resurrection** and new life. The funeral gives those who mourn **comfort, but it is also a time to pray** for the mercy of God in judging the deceased – it is the last act of love we can do for those who have died that cannot be repaid.

### From the Ritual of Christian Funerals --

**5** Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just.

The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.

**6** The church through its funeral rites **commends the dead to God’s merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins.**

At the funeral rites, especially at the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice, the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great **communion of saints.**

**Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community** of believers on the earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession.

At the rite of commendation and farewell, the community acknowledges the reality of separation and **commends the deceased to God.**

In this way it recognizes the **spiritual bond that still exists** between the living and the dead and proclaims its belief that all the faithful will be raised up and reunited in the new heavens and a new earth, where death will be no more.

**7** The celebration of the Christian funeral **brings hope and consolation to the living.**

While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to Christian hope in the resurrection, the **funeral rites also recall to all who take part in them God’s mercy and judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis.**