



NOTRE DAME PARISH
North Caldwell, NJ – 973.226.0979

Guidelines for "Words of Remembrance"

"I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me will live forever." (John 11:25) To the family member or friend who will be offering words of remembrance on the life of the deceased: Please accept the condolences of the pastor and staff of Notre Dame Parish as you mourn the passing of your loved one from this world.

The family has entrusted you with a sacred task in asking you to "speak in remembrance" of the departed on their behalf. The following guidelines are provided to help you prepare and deliver your remarks.

To "speak in remembrance" means to give a brief reflection on the life of the deceased in the context of his or her life of faith. These liturgical words of remembrance are therefore not the same as the secular understanding of a "eulogy," which is a reminiscing and toasting of the life of the departed.

In preparing words of remembrance, it might be helpful to reflect on the qualities of the deceased that made them a good person. A brief story or example might be a helpful means to illustrate a particular point.

Unfortunately, past experience with speakers at funerals has made it necessary for the parish to require current speakers to **strictly** adhere to the following guidelines. These are designed to insure the sacredness of the ceremony and to respect the dignity of the deceased.

- **Only one person may deliver the words of remembrance at the funeral Mass.**
- **At no time is it acceptable to use crude or profane language, or to engage in actions that would not ordinarily take place during the sacred liturgy.**
- **The spoken words of remembrance cannot exceed two or three minutes in length – the basic equivalent of a single typed page of double-spaced text in regular 12-point font. Please rehearse and time yourself prior to the funeral.**
- **You may wish to review what you plan to say with another person, even the priest or pastoral minister who is assisting in the funeral preparation.**

Your cooperation is deeply appreciated. Lengthy or inappropriate talks may result in the elimination of words of remembrance at future funerals. Please think of those who will come after you. Keep in mind that there will be other opportunities such as at the repast for lengthier and more personal memories to be shared. Thank you for understanding and once again please know of our sincere sympathy during this time of loss.

The Parish Staff of Notre Dame Church