

## **WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE (Eulogy)**

### **I. At the Vigil Service**

**(Less formal, several people may speak briefly.)**

- 1. Plan a time for the vigil with your pastor, parish, and funeral director.**
- 2. Include the time and place of the vigil along with the obituary announcement so that friends and family can plan to be there.**
- 3. Following the “Our Father” and a brief prayer, Words of Remembrance may be shared.**
- 4. To begin, choose a simple story, one that reflects how your loved one showed his/her love for others. (If you cannot speak, ask some else to begin.)**
- 5. Invite others to share a brief memory. (You might ask one or two people to prepare a brief reflection to get the stories going.)**
- 6. After a time of sharing, your pastor or someone else may bring the service to a close. Informal conversation may continue afterwards.**
- 7. If your pastor cannot stay for the sharing of memories, the funeral director, a parish minister, or a family member may read the closing prayer and blessing. (See below.)**

### **II. At the Funeral Mass**

**(More formal, one person may speak for no more than 3 minutes at the end of Mass.)**

- 1. How did this person reflect Christ’s life to you and to others?**
- 2. For what can we be thankful in the life of the deceased?**
- 3. Focus on the faith journey of your loved one.**
- 4. How did this person love others in the way Christ loves us?**
- 5. Avoid any stories or references that are not in keeping with a Christian life.**
- 6. Avoid saying anything that might cause embarrassment to the assembly**
- 7. Write your reflection down. Share it with your pastor beforehand.**