



FUNERAL PLANNING

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q: We would like to honor our deceased loved one with words of remembrance. Is it permissible to have a eulogy at the Funeral Mass?

A: Paying tribute to a loved one is part of the healing process when dealing with a loss; however, it is most appropriate to eulogize and pay tribute to your loved one at the vigil. This allows us to focus on the Mass and Christ's death and resurrection. Please speak with the deacon in regard to how and when it is appropriate to eulogize and pay tribute to your loved one at the vigil.

Q: We would like two Funeral Masses. One Mass at Saint Rose of Lima and another in our home town/state.

A: Only one Funeral Mass is necessary. We recommend that the family schedule a Mass intention at the parish where the Funeral Mass will not be held. This Mass can be announced in the local newspaper so that family and friends may attend.

Q: Can a Rosary be said at the church prior to the Funeral Mass?

A: Normally, the Rosary is said the night before during the Vigil.

Q: Is the funeral home required to transport the cremains to the church and cemetery?

A: The Order of Christian Funerals with Cremation Rite states that "Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites (1998, p. 391)." In the event that cremains are necessary, yes, the funeral home is required to transport the cremains to the church and cemetery. The Church teaches us that the human body is sacred; therefore, the cremated remains are to receive the same respect as the remains of a body.

Q: We're considering keeping our loved one's cremains or scattering them. Is this permitted?

A: No.

By virtue of an indult granted by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. 1589/96/L), the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy, including Mass, in the presence of the cremated remains of the body of a deceased person is permitted in the diocese of the United States of America under the following conditions:

- a. That the cremation not be inspired by motives contrary to Christian teaching, in accordance with what is laid down by the Code of Canon Law (canon 1176 § 3).
- b. That each diocesan bishop will judge whether it is pastorally appropriate to celebrate the liturgy for the dead, with or without Mass, with the ashes present, taking into account the concrete circumstances in each individual case, and in harmony with the spirit and precise content of the current canonical and liturgical norms. (Order of Christian Funerals, 1998, p.393).

*Should the decision be made to keep or scatter the cremains, Saint Rose of Lima will not provide a Christian funeral or service.

Q: We are undecided about the date and location of the committal (entombment). Can we have the Funeral Mass and schedule the committal for a later date?

A: The Catholic Order of Christian Funerals consists of three Rites: the vigil, the Funeral Mass or Eucharistic liturgy; and the committal. All three Rites should take place within a timely manner from each other. Normally the vigil takes place in the evening with the Funeral Mass and burial following the next day.