

Diocesan Directive for Funerals Issued on December 21, 2001

1. At the funeral mass, only one member or friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased. While only one person should speak, he or she can offer a summation of memories gathered from family members.
2. This practice is to take place only following the prayer after Communion.
3. The member or friend of the family is to speak no longer than three to four minutes, always respecting the sacredness of the liturgy and the sensitivities of those present, and, in particular, avoiding inappropriate language.
 - a. Be mindful of the amount of time needed to travel to the cemetery and/or luncheon.
 - b. The schedule of the cemetery workers who may have several services scheduled that day.
 - c. The need for some people at the funeral mass, including servers, music ministers and those gathered to return to work or other responsibilities.
4. The Words of Remembrance should be prepared beforehand and submitted to the Pastor via email: jpisaneschi@stthereses-shavertown.com or a typed or handwritten remembrance can be delivered to the rectory.
 - a. The reflection should be about the deceased person's human qualities including his or her life of faith, and how he or she inspired others.
 - b. It should not be the time to recall the life history of the deceased.
 - c. While only one person should speak in remembrance of the deceased, he or she can offer a summation of memories gathered from family members.

These guidelines are necessary to ensure that the funeral liturgy is foremost an act of sacred worship and an offering of prayers for the deceased.