

## Planning a Catholic Funeral Liturgy

**For funerals in Moreauville, LA at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, families are asked to read over the following as preparations are made for the funeral.**

### **The evening before the Funeral:**

*At the vigil the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence. It is the first occasion among the funeral rite for the solemn reading of the word of God. In this time of loss the family and community turn to God's word as the source of faith and hope, as light and life in the face of darkness and death. Consoled by the redeeming word of God and by the abiding presence of Christ and his Spirit, the assembly at the vigil calls upon the Father of mercy to receive the deceased into the kingdom of light. (Order of Christian Funerals # 56)*

- Vigil for the Deceased.**      **Date/Time:** \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The evening before the funeral mass the priest will celebrate the *Vigil for the Deceased*. This consists in the proclamation of God's word in Sacred Scripture, a brief homily, and intercessory prayer.
  
- Rosary**
  - It is a tradition to pray the rosary at the *Vigil for the Deceased*.
    - The family would like the priest to lead the rosary.
  
- Remembrance of the Deceased**
  - "A member or friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased" during the *Vigil of the Deceased (Order # 80)*
  - **Clearly, no relative or friend may preach.** The import of the words limit the speaking to stories about the deceased. In no way should these recollection be even similar to preaching. Preaching is expounding completely and faithfully the mystery of Christ in the ministry of the Word as the magisterium of the Church proposes. It takes on various forms, preeminent among them is the homily during the Mass which is reserved to a Catholic priest or deacon only (cc. 760; 767-768). This norm is confirmed in the "1993 (Directory of Ecumenism" approved by the Holy Father March 25, 1993 (Directory #134). Furthermore, for the good order of the liturgical rites in the Diocese, it is hereby prohibited to allow any one to speak "in remembrance" during the "Final Commendation" even though it is provided in the liturgical books.

**[Diocese of Alexandria Policy Statement 1280 – Remembrance of the deceased in the Funeral Rite]**

- The family will have someone speak in remembrance of the deceased.  
Name of person: \_\_\_\_\_