

DIOCESE OF JACKSON FUNERALS DIRECTIVES

Music

- Only music that is sacred and liturgical in nature and origin should be used. Secular music is not to be used in a church setting.

Rather than adopting popular secular songs which are inappropriate to a liturgical setting, we should seek out good liturgical music on a paschal theme which can "support, console, and uplift participants and help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory." (*Order of Christian Funerals*, number 31)
- The Lord's Prayer is not a solo. It is a prayer of the community. It should be sung or recited by the entire congregation and never performed as a solo. (*Ordo Missae*, 126)

Wake Services

- Because of the often social nature of visitation, it is preferable for visitation **NOT** to be held in a church. If visitation must be held in a church, then every effort must be made to maintain the dignity and sacredness of the space.
- Wake services not the Funeral Mass are the appropriate time for family and friends to share stories and anecdotes about the deceased. Pastoral ministers should guide family members to use the Wake Service or post Funeral meal as a time for eulogies.

Where celebrated

- The proper place for a Funeral Mass is in the parish church.
- Funeral Masses in a funeral home should not be celebrated unless permission is given from the Bishop.

Eulogy

- A eulogy is a short tribute to the life of the deceased loved one, offered by a family member or close personal friend, who knew the deceased well.
- Pastors and pastoral ministers should encourage the family to use the post funeral meal or wake service to share stories about the deceased.

- The Order of Christian Funerals clearly states that a “brief homily should be given at the funeral liturgy, but never any kind of eulogy” may replace the homily (#141)
- If a eulogy is to be given at the Funeral Liturgy it must follow the Prayer after Communion. The family should indicate to the priest, deacon, or LEM at the time of the funeral planning if they would like someone to deliver a eulogy.
- The eulogy should be brief, done by one person and not last more than a few minutes (2-5).

Proper terminology in public notices and obituaries

- In the preparation for public notification of death and funeral services, as well as the publication of a “worship aid,” for the celebration of funeral rites, the appropriate wording should be as follows: **“The Mass of Christian Burial.”** “The Mass of Resurrection” is not proper terminology.

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