

### **Eulogy and Family Reflections at the time of a Funeral**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Columbus that the preferred time for a remembrance or eulogy is during the vigil service (CF, Prot. 10/97, #4). It should be brief (no more than three minutes) and delivered by one person who is reasonably adept at public speaking.

If the family does not gather prior to the funeral liturgy, a brief remembrance may be given following the Prayer after Communion at Mass, or immediately prior to the Final commendation at a Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass. The text of the remembrance must be submitted to the principle celebrant for approval well in advance.

The distinction between a remembrance and a eulogy should be noted relevant to this directive. A remembrance is an informal talk about how the deceased personally touched the lives of the bereaved, and especially the life of the one speaking. A eulogy, on the other hand, is a formal oration or speech on the life of the deceased. Its content is based solely on the life of the person being honored, particularly on the deceased's accomplishments during life. <sup>8</sup> Whether during the vigil service or the funeral liturgy, the remembrance does not take the place of the homily. Neither should the homily take the form of a eulogy (Ref. GIRM, 382).