

# Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois



# Presented by

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- ▶ with continuing education credits from the Illinois Funeral Directors Association

# History

▶ See handout



# Challenges

- ▶ Cultural aversion to dealing with death and grief
- ▶ Euphemisms: “celebration of life”
- ▶ Deceased parents’ wishes not being respected
- ▶ Following the Order of Christian Funerals vs. personal preferences
- ▶ Cremations
- ▶ Cemeteries

# Problem of non-churchgoing adult children choosing not to have a Funeral Mass for their Mass-going deceased parent

- ▶ Recommendation/suggestion for Mass-going parents to pre-plan their funeral if their adult children do not practice the Catholic faith
- ▶ Clarify that if choosing cremation that it should be done after the Mass and for burial to happen within 30 days.

# Order of Christian Funerals

- ▶ What is the purpose of the *Order of Christian Funerals*?
  - ▶ The *Order of Christian Funerals* sets out three distinct “stations” of the funeral liturgy, with several additional liturgies.
  - ▶ “Through a careful use of the rites ... the minister helps the mourners to express their sorrow and to find strength and consolation through faith in Christ and his resurrection to eternal life” (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 52).
  - ▶ “The members of the Christian community offer support to the mourners, especially by praying that the one they lost may have eternal life” (52).

# The Three Stations

1. The Vigil and Related Prayers
  - ▶ Prayers after Death
  - ▶ Gathering in the Presence of the Body
  - ▶ Vigil for the Deceased (with Reception at the Church)
    - ▶ Transfer of the Body to the Church or to the Place of Committal
2. The Funeral Liturgy (within or outside Mass)
3. The Rite of Committal (with Final Commendation)

# The Prayers Related to the Vigil

- ▶ Prayers after Death
  - ▶ This liturgy is “a model of prayer that may be used when a minister first meets with the family following death” (101).
- ▶ Gathering in the Presence of the Body
  - ▶ “This rite provides a model of prayer that may be used when the family first gathers in the presence of the body, when the body is to be prepared for burial or after it has been prepared” (109).
- ▶ Both of these can be led by a priest, deacon, pastoral associate, chaplain, or someone from the funeral home.

# The Vigil

- ▶ “The vigil is the principal celebration of the Christian community during the time before the funeral liturgy” (45).
- ▶ Consequently, the “members of the local parish community should be encouraged to participate in the vigil as a sign of concern and support for the mourners” (64).
- ▶ “It may take the form of a liturgy of the word or of some part of the office for the dead” (45).
- ▶ The Vigil may be led by a priest, deacon, pastoral associate, chaplain, or someone from the funeral home.
- ▶ The rosary may be prayed in connection with the Vigil, but it should not replace the Vigil itself.

# When and Where Is the Vigil Celebrated?

- ▶ Because it is a Vigil, it should be celebrated in the evening, not immediately before the Funeral Liturgy.
  - ▶ It should not be forgotten that “the vigil may also serve as an opportunity for participation in the funeral by those who, because of work or other reasons, cannot be present for the funeral liturgy or the rite of committal” (64).
- ▶ The vigil “may be celebrated in the home of the deceased, in the funeral home, parlor or chapel of rest, or in some other suitable place. It may also be celebrated in the church, but **at a time well before the funeral liturgy**, so that the funeral liturgy will not be lengthy and the liturgy of the word repetitious” (55).

# When the Vigil is Celebrated at the Church

- ▶ Ideally, the vigil should be held outside the body of the church, for example, in the gathering space.
- ▶ If the vigil is held in the church proper, the Eucharist should be removed from the tabernacle.
- ▶ Bodies or cremains *cannot* be left on parish property overnight.

# Words at the Vigil

- ▶ “A brief homily based on the readings ... may ... be given after the readings at the vigil service; **but there is never to be a eulogy**” (27).
- ▶ After the Concluding Prayer and before the Blessing, “a member or friend of the family *may* speak remembrance of the deceased” (80).
  - ▶ Not the singular: “a member or friend of the family.”
  - ▶ Ideally, not more than a few minutes.
  - ▶ It is not unreasonable to request a copy of the text to be read beforehand.
- ▶ What is the difference between a eulogy and words of remembrance?
  - ▶ A eulogy praises the deceased.
  - ▶ Words of remembrance recall God’s fidelity and mercy to the deceased.

# Transfer of the Body to the Church or Place of Committal

- ▶ “The procession to the church is a rite of initial separation of the mourners from the deceased: the procession to the place of committal is the journey to the place of final separation of the mourners from the deceased” (120).
- ▶ “Reverent celebration of the rite can help assure the mourners and created an atmosphere of calm before the procession” (120).
- ▶ These prayers may be led by a priest, deacon, pastoral associate, chaplain, or someone from the funeral home.

# The Funeral Liturgy within Mass

- ▶ Because the Funeral Mass is the *second* of the three stations of the *Order of Christian Funerals*, the Sign of the Cross is not included in the introductory rites.
- ▶ “A brief homily based on the readings is *always* given after the gospel reading at the funeral liturgy...; **but there is never to be a eulogy**” (27).
- ▶ “Following the prayer after communion ... a member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins” (170).
- ▶ The Funeral Mass is always celebrated by a priest or bishop.

# The Funeral Liturgy outside Mass

- ▶ This rite “may be used ... when the funeral Mass is not permitted ... when it is not possible to celebrate the funeral Mass before the committal ... [or] when for pastoral reasons the pastor and the family judge that the funeral liturgy outside Mass is a more suitable form of celebration” (178).
- ▶ “The funeral liturgy outside Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church, but may also be celebrated in the home of the deceased, a funeral home, parlor, chapel of rest, or cemetery chapel” (179).
- ▶ “Following the Lord’s Prayer (or the prayer after communion) ... a member or friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins” (197). “...but there is never to be a eulogy” (27).
- ▶ This liturgy may be led by a priest, deacon, pastoral associate, chapel, or someone from the funeral home.

# The Rite of Committal

- ▶ “The rite of committal, the conclusion of the funeral rites, is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member” (204).
  - ▶ As such, military honors ought to precede the Rite of Committal.
- ▶ “Whenever possible, the rite of committal is to be celebrated at the site of committal, that is, beside the open grave or place of interment, rather than at a cemetery chapel” (204).
- ▶ These prayers may be led by a priest, deacon, pastoral associate, chaplain, or someone from the funeral home.

# Cremation

- ▶ Cremation is allowed but not preferred
- ▶ Cremated remains are “to be treated with the same respect as a full body”
  - ▶ Not divided, not mixed with other cremated remains
  - ▶ Not made into jewelry
  - ▶ To be interned into a sacred space within 30 days
- ▶ Preference is for the body to be present for the Funeral liturgy, followed by cremation, then interment
- ▶ Interment of cremated remains –scattering of cremated remains or taking cremated remains home is permitted by civil law, but not permitted by church law

# Instruction

*Ad resurgendum cum Christo*

regarding the burial of the deceased  
and the conservation of the ashes in  
the case of cremation

- ▶ Highlight points
- ▶ Give an abridged version

# Alkaline Hydrolysis

- ▶ In 2011 chairman of the USCCB determined it “unnecessarily disrespectful of the human body.”
- ▶ Is not accepted as an appropriate form of cremation by the Catholic Church.

# Article XIII: Cremated Remains

- ▶ 13-A Cremated remains shall be treated with the same respect as a full body burial.

We believe that all earthly remains should be treated with reverence.

Therefore, all of one's cremated remains should be buried or placed into a columbarium within thirty (30) days after death and not stored at home or divided among loved ones.

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- ▶ 13-B Effective January 1, 2019, cremated remains will only be accepted through a funeral home. Loved ones who were entrusted with cremated remains will not deal directly with the cemetery. They must take all cremation paperwork to a local funeral home for verification of the remains and work with the funeral home and cemetery for the proper burial.

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- ▶ 13-C Partial cremated remains will be accepted with the hopes that the other cremated remains will be added later. Cemetery managers should always educate family members about church teachings, that cremated remains are not to be divided.

Cemeteries shall offer to reopen the grave or columbarium ONCE free of charge to add the other cremated remains with the proper paperwork. This will be done at the convenience of the cemetery and with the proper paperwork.

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- ▶ 13-D Cremated remains shall be presented in an individual urn/container and buried in a retrievable outer burial container\*. (Vault)
  - ▶ 13-E Cremated remains shall not be co-mingled. First this is not allowed by federal law without written permission from all parties whom cremated remains are co-mingled. Second it is not acceptable for Catholics even with written permission. Our cemeteries will not bury cremated remains that have been co-mingled. (suggest families talk with local priest to discuss a possible solution.)
  - ▶ Each person shall have his or her own urn. Multiple urns may be buried in the same retrievable container\*. (Vault)
  - ▶ \*Retrievable container-Any container that protects the container that the cremated remains are in from being crushed or damaged while being buried or retrieved at a future date.

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- ▶ 13-F Cremated remains that are placed in a casket with a full body must have its own paperwork filled out. Failure to do this allows the cemetery to refuse memorialization of the cremated remains on the headstone until the paperwork is completed and the appropriate fees are paid.
  - ▶ 13-G Cremated remains shall not be placed within headstones. They shall only be placed within the cemeteries where they have been designated for cremated remains (a columbarium, buried in a retrievable container\* or a family columbarium if the cemetery has an area designated for them.)
  - ▶ 13-H An ossuary (an area where 100's of bags of cremated remains are placed together into the same large container) is not allowed in our cemeteries.

# Who To Contact When You Don't Know An Answer About Catholic Burial Rites

- ▶ Contact the local parish priest
- ▶ Contact Father Daren Zehnle, Office for Divine Worship, [dzehnle@dio.org](mailto:dzehnle@dio.org), telephone 217-321-1109
- ▶ Contact Brad Fisher with the Office for Cemeteries, [bfisher@dio.org](mailto:bfisher@dio.org), telephone 217-321-1193

# Question & Answer

